



European Union Aid to Liberia: from relief to development

Facts & Figures

Liberia is on target to meet Millennium Development Goal 4 = reducing child mortality by two-thirds (by 2015). Maternal mortality is still among the world's highest.

European Union (EU) funding to Liberia:

- Humanitarian aid: €75 million (US\$ 100 million) by the European Commission from 2008-2012
- Development aid & debt relief: more than €1.37 billion (about US\$1.8 billion) by the European Commission & EU Member States from 2008-2011

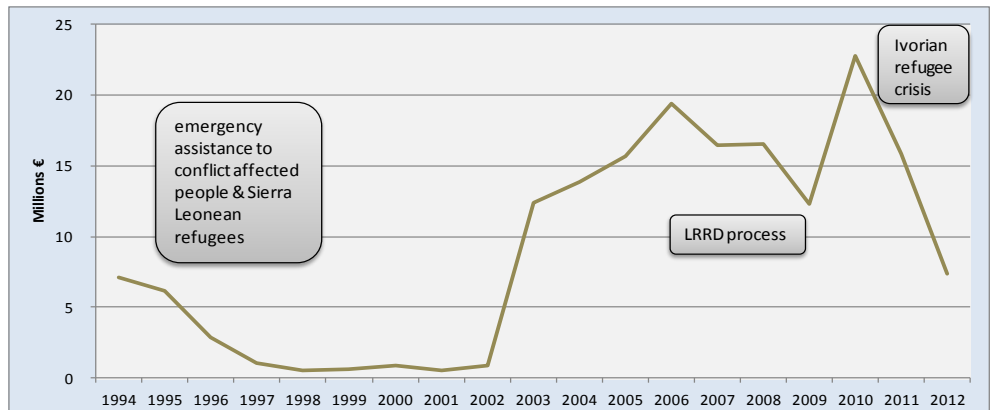


Widow Finda Hallie's daughter and granddaughter were malnourished when she started cultivating a small patch of land in 2011 with the help of an EU supported program. Today, the family has plenty to eat and with the money from sales she can send all the children to school.

Assisting Liberians affected by conflict

August 2013 marked a decade since a ceasefire ended the brutal civil war that ravaged Liberia and left 250 000 Liberians dead. Today, the country is at peace, has developed a long-term vision for poverty reduction and is moving on from relief to development.

From 1992 to 2013, the European Commission's humanitarian aid and civil protection department ECHO allocated more than €180 million (about US\$240 million) in **support to humanitarian relief programs which ranged from emergency relief to rehabilitation and reconstruction.**



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Back in 1989 when war broke out on Christmas Eve, it signaled the start of a thirteen-year-long ordeal for Liberians and the beginning of the European Commission's sustained involvement in the country.

Funding the few, mostly medical organisations that provided relief operations during and after the 'first Liberian war', the **European Commission supported life-saving activities** during some of the country's darkest hours, from 1989 to 1997. In 1992, the Commission created ECHO, a department specifically dedicated to responding to urgent humanitarian needs such as the ones which arose in Liberia.

Renewed fighting resulted in a significant increase in the Commission's humanitarian funding as of 2002 with a focus on **emergency assistance to internally displaced people and refugees**, and on **repatriation and reintegration** programs as of 2005. From 2006 onwards priority was given to the provision of **basic health and nutrition services** and the improvement of **water, sanitation and food security** conditions across the country.

ECHO continues to fund a cross-border program on either side of the Liberian-Ivorian border with the objective of improving social cohesion and food security for Ivorian refugees, returnees as well as the local population.

Stepping up development cooperation

As humanitarian support was phased out, development aid funding to Liberia increased drastically. The bulk of European Commission assistance to Liberia is financed through the European Development Fund (EDF) and is focused on poverty reduction. Other financing instruments exist primarily to support projects by non-governmental partners in the field of humanitarian aid, food security, human rights and environmental protection.

For the period 2003–2009, a first tranche of €50 million was made available from the **9th European Development Fund (EDF)** to support Liberia's peace process and fund post-conflict rehabilitation and capacity building. After the inauguration of the new Government of Liberia in 2006, an additional €68.4 million was disbursed of which €12 million was earmarked for the education sector.

In line with Liberia's development policy and the EU Cooperation strategy under the **10th EDF (2008-2013)** the process of **Linking Relief, Rehabilitation & Development (LRRD)** was accelerated. Since 2010, Liberia also benefits from budget support aimed at reducing Liberia's maternal mortality which is among the world's highest. Backing for Liberia's National Health Plan started in 2011 and provided funding for health facilities previously supported by ECHO. As the EU Food Facility and Food Security Program stepped in ECHO also phased out support for food security programs.

In all, €256 million was disbursed via the 10th EDF for the provision of basic social services, the rehabilitation of basic infrastructure and institutional support. Despite progress on many fronts the country continues to face considerable challenges in restoring basic services to its people. Two-thirds of Liberians live below the poverty line and the country has the highest number of out-of-school children among countries no longer at war. Donor support has allowed Liberia to adopt a policy of free health care, but the majority of child births are still not attended by skilled health professionals. 40% of children suffer from chronic malnutrition and 40% of the population is vulnerable to food insecurity (source: Comprehensive Food & Nutrition Survey 2010). Water and sanitation coverage remain low.

The **11th EDF (2014 – 2020)** will focus its assistance on the priority sectors of **state building, education and energy**.

Some EU funded sectors



HEALTH

Rebecca Varney is Officer-in-Charge of the Pipeline Community Health Centre. As Liberia counts few practising physicians, nurses like her keep health structures going. Health education is a big part of their job. Young mothers are encouraged to exclusively breastfeed. Teenage pregnancy is rife in Liberia, with damaging consequences for the health of both the young mothers and their babies. Over the years, the EU has been a strong supporter, through both its humanitarian and development aid, of restoring basic health care services to Liberians.

EDUCATION

Liberia has the highest number of out-of-school children among countries no longer at war. Illiteracy, especially among women, is also very high: 62% of women are illiterate compared to 29% of men. The EU will therefore continue its support of the education sector which it initiated in 2006. Under the 11th EDF education will be one of three priority sectors with a focus on secondary education and vocational training.



WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

From 2008 to 2013, the EU supported a group of NGOs gathered under the name Liberia WASH Consortium, to improve sanitation conditions and access to safe water, especially in cholera hot spots. The consortium also engaged in hygiene promotion and capacity building of local NGOs.



FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

Wendor opened a small shop thanks to a village savings & loans group. She was enrolled in the program during one of her visits to the health centre which is supported by an EU partner. The program provides small loans to help women start up an income-generating activity. Previously benefiting from humanitarian funds, these communities now receive assistance via EU development funds.

ENERGY

One of the most critical infrastructure gaps in Liberia is to be found in the power sector. The EU started supporting the electricity sector in 2003 with an emergency assistance programme, then continued with the Monrovia Grid Rehabilitation Project which was completed in 2011. The EU currently supports the provision of solar panels to 205 rural clinics benefiting 34% of the Liberian population, mainly women and children who live in rural areas.

