

Funding proposal

**Improving health for children and mothers
in Liberia**

Prepared for Guru Gobind Singh Children's Foundation



Plan

Be part of something extraordinary

An opportunity to be a part of an extraordinary experience

Something extraordinary happens when an entire community works together with shared goals, a solid plan, good advice and sufficient resources. With more than 70 years experience implementing innovative, sustainable solutions that produce measurable results for children living in poverty, we've seen it first-hand.

Plan creates the conditions that make it possible for communities to turn their hopes for their children into reality. We engage children in shaping their own future. We invite you to be part of it all.

The following proposal outlines an important health project that has the ability to make a dramatic difference in the lives of thousands of children and their families in Liberia, West Africa.

It is important to note that this project is partially supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). For every \$1 that is contributed by a Canadian citizen or group, CIDA will donate \$6 towards this project.

Country overview

The Republic of Liberia is located on the west coast of Africa and is bordered by Sierra Leone, Guinea, Cote D'Ivoire, and the Atlantic Ocean.

Liberia has experienced years of conflict, starting in 1980, when the government was overturned in a military coup. With two civil wars since, the latter ending in 2003, hundreds of thousands of people were displaced and the country's economy was devastated. Now, the Government of Liberia is working hard to move the country along a path of recovery.

Plan returned to Liberia in December, 2006 – 14 years after the civil war forced us to close down operations and leave the country.

Our new office in the capital Monrovia is working to support reconstruction and development efforts to help children across Liberia.



Above: This project will take place in Lofa County in Northern Liberia, as indicated by the green star.

Fast facts – Why Plan works in Liberia

- Liberia has a population of 3.5 million people
- GNI per capita is \$140, compared to \$36,170 in Canada
- Life expectancy is 45 years old, compared to 80 years in Canada
- 50 per cent of the Liberian population is malnourished
- Nearly 40 per cent of the population does not have access to safe water, and nearly 75 per cent does not have access to adequate sanitation
- 1 in 12 women die from pregnancy-related causes

Sources: UN – Information by Country (Liberia, 2008), Millennium Development Goals Monitor (Liberia, 2008)

The need – why your gift is so important

The government of Liberia has made significant gains in recovering from a brutal 14-year civil war. But, access to basic health care, safe water and sanitation, shelter, and education remain a challenge for the majority of Liberians – particularly for the estimated 300,000 refugees returning to the country, a majority of who are settling in the northern part of the country.

Access to basic health care, especially for child delivery and maternal health services are grossly limited in the north and, for the most part, are non-existent. As a result, the area has one of the highest maternal and infant mortality rates in the country. The communities of Vahun, Kolahun, and Foya in Lofa County in northern Liberia, in conjunction with Plan, have identified safe birth delivery, and water and sanitation facilities, as priority needs.

Project description – how your gift will help

Benefiting more than 145,000 people, the goal of this one-year project is to improve the health services for returnees, particularly for pregnant women, new born infants, and children under five.

Project activities include:

- Training for birth attendants and provision of delivery kits
- Upgrading of maternity centres with necessary equipment, logistics, and supplies
- Upgrading of referral hospitals and strengthening of referral system to better identify and properly treat women with complications from pregnancy and/or childbirth
- Construction of 12 community wells, with hand pumps and maintenance kits
- Construction of latrines in 12 communities
- Training and development of guides for 60 outreach workers and peer educators on a variety of health topics
- Organizing health and hygiene education sessions for community members



Above: Traditional birth attendants - like these ones shown from a similar project - will be trained in safe delivery and referral practices.

Project budget

Project activity	Cost CDN\$
Training for birth attendants and provision of mobile birth delivery kits	\$45,000
Upgrading of maternity centres with necessary equipment, logistics, and supplies	\$107,000
Upgrading of referral hospital and strengthening of referral hospital	\$35,000
Train and develop guides for 60 outreach workers and peer educators on a variety of health topics	\$10,000
Health education sessions	\$2,500
Construction of 12 community wells, with hand pumps and maintenance kits	\$41,000
Construction of latrines in 12 communities	\$35,000
Training for various community committees	\$5,000
Project planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation	\$45,080
Overhead (approximately 7.5 per cent of total project cost)	\$24,420
Project sub total	\$350,000
<i>Contribution from CIDA (\$6 dollars per every \$1 contributed by a Canadian citizen or group)</i>	<i>\$300,000</i>
Project total	\$50,000

For every \$1 contributed by a Canadian citizen or group, CIDA will donate \$6 towards this project.

Project accountability, responsibility and transparency

To ensure appropriate use of project funds and resources, a series of financial management procedures are in place to monitor the project and to ensure accountability to you – the donor. Community-managed funds are verified through purchase committees who prepare quotations and bids. Prior acquisition training for these committees, given by Plan through other development projects, supports this process. Monitoring is done by community members and by Plan staff. Plan ensures follow-up and control and information systems at the regional and national levels, in accordance with Plan's corporate accounting systems.

Sustainability

In keeping with Plan's mission and the principle of empowerment, program sustainability is a key element in Plan projects. Throughout all stages of a project – planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and maintenance – community participation and responsibility is critical. The long-term sustainability of our programs is maximized through community ownership of, and involvement in, projects and the recognition of their overall value to the local society.

Plan's comparative advantage

Plan has been well established in communities around world for many years, which means organizational credibility, as well as support to and from government, communities and other development partners. Plan has programs in place in the most affected zones of the countries where we work and has achieved an intimate understanding of the targeted communities and has deeply rooted community support. This long history and relationship with communities is key in mobilizing children and community leaders to create genuine community involvement and ownership of the projects.

Moving forward

We invite you to join Plan in this important project that will improve the lives of more than 145,000 people in Liberia.

Once finished, this project will be more than complete – it will become part of a record of real changes that have occurred in the lives of children and communities Plan supports.

