CONNECTIVITY
FOR LIBERIA

The Government of Liberia, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Google are working together to bring high-speed communications infrastructure to Liberia.

In 2014 and 2015, Ebola cost Liberia thousands of lives and hard-earned development and economic gains. The U.S. Government partnered with the Government of Liberia to end the epidemic. Now, it is helping Liberia build back stronger than before. This partnership project will strengthen health systems and spur economic recovery and growth.

THE POWER
OF CONNECTIVITY

Strengthening Health Systems

Better information and stronger communications systems could have helped save lives during the Ebola crisis. Internet access is vital for disease surveillance and health information systems to detect and prevent future outbreaks of Ebola and other diseases. It will improve communication between the Ministry of Health, health care workers, and experts around the world.

Connectivity opens up possibilities for telemedicine and mHealth in a country with one of the worst health care worker shortages in the world. Before the epidemic, Liberia had only one doctor for every 70,000 people. Through this partnership, Google will offer reduced rates for government, medical and educational facilities.

Economic Recovery and Growth

The epidemic has been stopped, but its economic effects linger on. There was no economic expansion in Liberia in 2015. In the medium term, economic growth is projected to stabilize at 6% — significantly lower than the 8% that was previously projected. Liberia's per-capita GDP remains among the lowest in the world.

The metro fiber network is one way USAID is helping Liberia recover and prepare for future crises. Shared communications infrastructure will help unlock the power of connectivity and the digital economy. It will spur economic recovery and growth through development of the technology sector and by making it easier to do business in Liberia.

PARTNERSHIP
DETAILS

Through public-private partnerships, USAID unlocks investment into sectors that are important for development. The Liberia metro fiber network is a 50/50 co-investment between Google and USAID, with each partner investing $6 million in cash and in-kind contributions.

This partnership builds on Google's proven experience in designing and rolling out shared metro fiber infrastructure through Project Link in Kampala, Uganda and Accra, Tema, and Kumasi, Ghana.

MAXIMIZING
THE INVESTMENT

Today, Liberia is among the least connected countries in the world. USAID is providing an additional $10 million for connected programs like health information systems, e-Government, and expansion of digital financial systems. It is also supporting local, digital entrepreneurs by providing access to a USAID loan guarantee program for qualified small and medium-size businesses.

USAID is also supporting the Government of Liberia in its commitment to build an open and fair market for internet services through ongoing efforts to modernize Liberia's ICT policy and regulatory framework.

MORE
INFORMATION

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Project Link: google.com/get/projectlink
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[1] WHO, 2008
[2] IMF, May 2016
[3] CIA World Factbook, 2015