



**USAID** | **LIBERIA**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## **GOVERNANCE AND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GEMAP**

Implemented by: IBI International

# **Better Financial Management at the Ministry of Public Works on the Road to Rehabilitation**

*Decades of conflict in Liberia devastated the country's infrastructure, road networks, and public facilities. With the motto of "Lifting Liberia", President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's government came to power with an ambitious agenda to re-build Liberia's infrastructure as a key pillar of the nation's Poverty Reduction Strategy.*

The Ministry of Public Works is at the core of the physical rehabilitation efforts, as the institution charged with the responsibility of building, improving, and maintaining the country's road network. Not unlike other institutions of the government, however, the Ministry suffers from a lack of human and institutional capacity to operate in an efficient and effective manner. Procurement and financial management processes remain prone to mismanagement and abuse.

The newly appointed Minister of Public Works, endowed with a majority share of the National Budget allocated to the Ministry by the Legislature, requested technical assistance from the United States Government through GEMAP for the provision of a Financial Advisor to work with the Ministry's leadership and technical staff to assess and enhance the institution's financial management processes, institute systems of internal controls, and build staff capacity.

The core objective of USAID GEMAP's technical assistance activities at the Ministry of Public Works was to help the Ministry address the deficiencies noted in the General Audit Commission's audit of the Ministry's financial systems. The GEMAP Financial Advisor to the Ministry, with assistance from a Liberian Financial Advisor, worked with the senior management of the Ministry to assess financial management processes, improve internal controls, draft manuals, automate accounting systems, and build staff capacity to operate the enhanced processes. At the end of the eight month assistance period, 47 of the 48 General Audit Commission audit findings had been addressed, and the institution now has an internationally recognized automated financial management system utilized in its day-to-day operations. equipment capacity have moved Liberia forward by facilitating general passenger service, tourism and air cargo.