

# Community at Odds in Liberia: An Introduction to Conflict Mapping

Experiential Learning Activity (ELA)  
Student Materials

The Undergraduate Experiential Learning Project

## Supplemental Materials



After the rain on a Lofa County road. Photo Credit: Agnieszka Paczynska

July 30, 2014

## Announcement

Due to the intensifying outbreak of the Ebola epidemic, International Service Corps (ISC) and Quest for the Understanding, Solidarity and Transformation (QUEST) have decided to evacuate its volunteers and staff out of Liberia. The organizations are deeply saddened by this decision but feel that this is essential to protect the health and the well being of its employees. At this time, the organizations are unable to predict when they will be able to return to Liberia and continue with their work. However, they have every intention of returning when conditions on the ground allow this.

At the same time, the Health Services International (HIS) will be establishing a presence in Liberia, including in Voinjama, the capital of Lofa County. HIS is a global, humanitarian, nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives and relieving suffering through health care training and relief and development programs. Its mission is to improve the quality of life through health interventions and related activities that build local capacity in underserved communities worldwide. It provides training and health care to local populations and medical assistance to people in high-risk areas; and works to rehabilitate devastated health care systems and assist in bringing them back to self-reliance.

## Questions:

- For members of ISC and QUEST:
  - What briefing would you provide to HIS to help them understand the local context of Voinjama so that their assistance would be conflict-sensitive?
  - What would you say to your community partners in Voinjama about leaving the projects you have been working on with them?
  - How do you feel about the evacuation order?
- For members of ILLC and NCHRR:
  - What briefing would you provide to HIS to help them understand the local context of Voinjama so that they would be aware of community needs, interests and expectations?
  - What would you say to the departing international organizations regarding the projects that they are leaving behind?
  - How do you feel about these organizations pulling out of the community at the time of crisis?

## 2014 Ebola epidemic in Liberia

December 2013	First cases of Ebola in Guinea
March 29	First two cases of Ebola in Liberia
May 25	First confirmed cases of Ebola in Sierra Leone
June 20	599 cases and 338 deaths confirmed in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone
July 27	First reported case of Ebola in Nigeria; Liberia shuts down most of its border crossings
August 8	World Health Organization (WHO) declares Ebola an "international health emergency"
August 12	Death toll exceeds 1,000
August 27	Doctors Without Borders, an international NGO, calls international response to the Ebola epidemic irresponsible and slow
August 29	First Ebola case reported in Senegal
September 6	4,293 confirmed cases of Ebola in five West African countries; at least 2,296 deaths
September 16	President Barack Obama announces that 3,000 US troops will be sent to West Africa to help build Ebola treatment centers
September 26	WHO puts Ebola deaths at 3,091
September 29	First case of Ebola death in the United States
October 7	Spain has the first case of Ebola contracted outside of West Africa
October 9	Ebola screenings begin at international airports
October 14	WHO says that fatality rate from Ebola is 70%; there are more than 4,447 deaths from Ebola
December 22	There are 19,340 confirmed cases and 7,518 deaths in 8 countries

# About the Project

This Experiential Learning Activity (ELA) has been developed as part of the Undergraduate Experiential Learning Project (UELP), U.S. Department of Education, Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)-funded initiative that aims to enhance Conflict Analysis and Resolution (CAR) pedagogy in order to improve undergraduate learning.

The CAR field is uniquely positioned to deliver educational experiences that help students make the crucial link between abstract theories and practical application through learning activities such as: conflict mapping, intervention design, role plays, and simulations. The ELAs developed as part of the UELP advance specific learning outcomes, including critical thinking, problem solving, and perspective taking.

Each ELA produced through the UELP has been designed either to augment existing course curricula or to be used as a stand-alone activity. Instructors are encouraged to adapt activities to meet the needs of their specific learning environments, including class size and course objectives.

All UELP project materials are available for public use and may be reproduced without permission. Please ensure that all printed materials display both the FIPSE and George Mason University logos as well as the project URL (<http://scar.gmu.edu/experientiallearningproject/home>).

As your partners in advancing undergraduate education, we are committed to improving the quality of the learning experience and encourage all feedback and recommendations to support that commitment. Additionally, we welcome stories that highlight moments of student insight that arise from participation in these activities. If you are interested in supporting the collection of data for ongoing research, please contact us through our webpage. ■



## School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution

3351 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 4D3, Arlington, VA 22201



## Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education

1990 K St. NW, 6th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20006