

Liberian Election Group Project:

In October 2011 (7 months from now), [Liberia](#) will hold its second democratic election. This signifies a critical juncture in post-war recovery efforts for Liberia, as the United Nations peacekeeping force is hoping to hand over security responsibilities to the relevant government authorities.

*You are part of team that has been recently hired by [CARE International](#). You have been tasked to make recommendations about which technologies and software should be used help improve communications, monitor violence levels, and provide public service delivery during the time leading up to the elections and on the day itself. Consider the tools we have discussed in class, and take some time to research other relevant tools in the [Case Study Library](#).

Prior to developing your proposal, divide up research duties (political background, technological capability, tools available, etc.) among the members of your group. Make sure that your group's final recommendations are appropriate to the Liberian environment:

- Consider the country's infrastructure (technology, transportation, healthcare capabilities, etc.)
- Keep in mind the importance of respecting political and cultural sensitivities
- Make sure that the proposed system doesn't jeopardize the safety of its users

Keep in mind that the most effective programs are robust and sustainable -- you don't want to develop a system that is so complicated and dependant on the newest technology that it is likely to break down in a potentially volatile environment.

**This assignment does not simply represent a hypothetical situation. In fact, Care International is currently in the process of deciding between many of the tools we are discussing in class.*

Considerations:

- How will you share information with the Liberian Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Disaster Management Unit, multinational organizations (the UN, WHO, etc.), and other NGOs?
- There is a distinct possibility of election violence -- primarily in the form of mob violence and large-scale attacks. How will your strategy monitor these occurrences and not be compromised by them?
- Violence in Cote d'Ivoire has led to a massive influx of people coming across the border. How will you monitor and account for these tens of thousands of displaced persons? How might your proposed system assist in setting up camps and providing food, shelter, and water?

- There is likely to be a need for medical relief, both for refugees and for victims of election violence. How will your system help coordinate health relief efforts?
- How might mobile phones be incorporated into your plan? Consider the benefits and weaknesses of utilizing smartphones vs. simpler (but more prevalent) mobile phones.
- How might you utilize existing tools, such as radio, television, print media, and existing social networks to support your work?
- How might [crowdsourcing](#) be used in your proposed system? What are the risks involved in this strategy?