



## Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to Deliver Address at Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women Graduation

*Program in Liberia Will Reach Nearly 300 Women*

*Partnership Between Goldman Sachs, CHF International, the United States Overseas Private Investment Corporation and Cuttington University Provides Women Entrepreneurs Business Training, Access to Capital*

December 2, 2010 -- Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf will deliver the keynote address at the *10,000 Women* graduation ceremony in Liberia, this Friday, December 3 at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex in Monrovia at 2:00 pm (GMT). Graduating business owners operate agribusinesses, schools, construction companies, shops, restaurants and beverage distributors. Most of the graduates spent time in refugee camps and started their businesses with little or nothing following the country's civil war.

The Goldman Sachs *10,000 Women* initiative in Liberia is a partnership between Goldman Sachs and CHF International, an international development organization that works in conflict-affected and developing countries. The initiative seeks to ensure that women-owned and women-run enterprises are provided with business and management skills, as well as capital, that will help grow their businesses and stimulate broader economic growth. Access to capital is a key component and *10,000 Women* is working closely with the Liberian Enterprise Development Finance Company (LEDFC), a local financing facility supported by the United States Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), CHF International and Robert L. Johnson Companies to train a pool of potential loan candidates.

"The Goldman Sachs *10,000 Women* program is empowering the women of Liberia with the business knowledge they need to help rebuild our economy," said President Sirleaf.

The *10,000 Women* certificate program in Liberia offers graduates 150 hours of business and management training managed by CHF International in collaboration with Cuttington University and the Liberian Business Association. The program includes practical and highly interactive coursework, ongoing business advising by local experts and access to networking opportunities and continuing education, in part provided by Women's Campaign International. Over five years, CHF anticipates training nearly 300 women entrepreneurs from across the country.

"We are honored that President Sirleaf is addressing the women business leaders who have taken part in the *10,000 Women* program," said Dina Powell, President of the Goldman Sachs Foundation. "These women are building their businesses, creating jobs and opening opportunity for their families and their community."

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“The investments of the Goldman Sachs *10,000 Women* initiative in Liberia are helping women play a remarkable role in rebuilding the country,” said David A. Weiss, President and CEO of CHF International. “We are pleased to be involved with this program, which empowers small business owners, helps build communities, and encourages economic growth in Liberia.”

**ABOUT GOLDMAN SACHS *10,000 WOMEN*:**

The Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women initiative is a five-year campaign to foster greater shared economic growth by providing 10,000 underserved women around the world with a business and management education. The initiative is coordinated in local markets by a network of more than 70 academic and NGO partners. It is funded by Goldman Sachs and The Goldman Sachs Foundation. For further information on the 10,000 Women program, please visit [www.10000women.org](http://www.10000women.org).

**ABOUT CHF INTERNATIONAL:**

CHF International is an international development organization founded in 1952 that works in conflict-affected and developing countries. We partner with communities around the world to help them to direct the improvement of their lives and livelihoods. We believe that the people best suited to decide what a community needs are the people of the community itself. CHF is a politically neutral, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. For more information, visit [www.chfinternational.org](http://www.chfinternational.org).

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