



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

**LIBERIA – Complex Emergency**

Situation Report #9, Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

September 3, 2003

*Note: This Situation Report updates USAID/OFDA Liberia Situation Report #8, dated August 27, 2003.*

**BACKGROUND**

Liberia has been marked by intermittent civil war since Charles Taylor launched a rebellion against the military regime of Samuel Doe in 1989. More than 200,000 people were killed during the ongoing conflict in Liberia in the 1990s. In 1997, Taylor emerged as the dominant power, winning the 1997 presidential election. Two opposition groups, controlling between 60 and 80 percent of the country, launched attacks on Government of Liberia (GOL) forces in attempts to oust Taylor from power. Taylor resigned on August 11, 2003. The main opposition group, Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), which began to fight former President Taylor in 1999, has grown from a northern-based insurgent movement to a force that now controls the majority of the country. The second opposition group, the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL), based in southern Liberia, began incursions into Liberia from Côte d'Ivoire in April 2003, resulting in large-scale population displacement. LURD now controls the north and center of the country, while MODEL controls the south and east. Years of conflict have had devastating consequences for the humanitarian situation in Liberia.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Internally Displaced	<b>Total : 500,000 in Liberia</b> 300,000 – IDP camps and irregular settlements in Monrovia 200,000 – Outside of Monrovia	UNHCR, September 2003 UNHCR, September 2003 UNHCR, September 2003
Refugees	73,000 Liberians in Guinea 53,000 Liberians in Sierra Leone 50,000 Liberians in Côte d'Ivoire 38,000 Ivoirians in Liberia 13,500 Sierra Leoneans in Liberia	UN OCHA, September 2003 UNHCR, June 2003 U.S. Committee for Refugees, Aug. 2003 UNHCR, September 2003 UNHCR, August 2003

**Total FY 2003 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Liberia (To Date) ..... \$4,117,285**

**Total FY 2003 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Liberia (To Date) ..... \$29,677,044**

**CURRENT SITUATION**

**(New information is in blue.)**

**LURD offensive in Monrovia.** On July 19, following the complete breakdown of a June 17 cease-fire agreement, LURD launched its third major offensive since June in Monrovia, the capital city of Liberia. Heavy fighting between LURD and GOL forces continued in and around Monrovia following the July 19 attack, as LURD gained control of strategic areas of the city, including Bushrod Island and the Free Port of Monrovia. Unconfirmed media reports estimate that this outbreak of the fighting killed approximately 1,000 people.

**ECOMIL troop deployments.** On August 4, the first Nigerians, the vanguard of the Economic Community of West Africa Mission in Liberia (ECOMIL) peace-

keeping force, began to arrive at Roberts International Airport (RIA), located 50 km east of Monrovia. **To date, in addition to two battalions comprising approximately 1,500 Nigerian troops currently in Monrovia, there are also 650 troops, 250 each from Mali and Senegal, and 150 from Gambia, in the country.**

**Exploratory ECOMIL patrols have already been sent to Buchanan and Kakata, and according to international news reports, peacekeepers will establish a permanent presence in both towns in the near future. Additional troops from Benin, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, and Togo are also expected in the near future. The ECOMIL force in Liberia will eventually number 3,250 troops. A U.N. peace-keeping force is scheduled to replace the ECOMIL force in October 2003.**

**Resignation of former President Taylor.** On August 11, former President Charles Taylor resigned from office,

transferred power to Moses Blah, Taylor's former Vice President, and departed the country for exile in Nigeria.

**U.S. Government troop deployment.** The U.S. Government has positioned 2,300 U.S. Marines off the coast of Liberia to assist the ECOMIL peace-keeping troops.

**Peace Negotiations.** On August 17, GOL, LURD, and MODEL participants at the peace negotiations in Accra, Ghana signed a pact granting free and secure access throughout the country to humanitarian workers and organizations. On August 18, the three parties signed a comprehensive peace agreement allowing for an interim government to assume power in October 2003. The agreement grants LURD and MODEL equal status in the transitional government.

**Interim Chairman and Vice-Chairman Chosen.** On August 21, Gyude Bryant, a Liberian businessman, was chosen to lead the country's next interim government that will take power in October. Wesley Johnson, an accounting lecturer, will be vice-chairman. Bryant is a member of the Liberia Action Party, and was picked from a list of three candidates proposed by 18 political parties and other civil groups attending the peace talks in Ghana. The final decision was made by the LURD, MODEL, and the administration of President Blah.

## **INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS**

**IDPs in Montserrado County.** The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) returning to camps in Montserrado County continues to increase. According to the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), IDPs are returning to their former locations in the Montserrado camps from the more than 100 IDP locations and irregular settlements in Monrovia as a result of the continuing sense of security in the area. This movement back to the Montserrado camps will afford non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and U.N. agencies a better opportunity to assist with food distribution, health services, and water and sanitation needs.

The USAID DART has interacted regularly with IDPs at the various sites in Monrovia who have expressed a willingness to return to Montserrado camps, provided that security and protection issues can be addressed. Given the current rainy season, returnees also indicated a need for shelter materials.

**Humanitarian organization access outside of Monrovia.** On August 28, USAID/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) partner Medical Emergency Relief International (Merlin) and the Catholic Mission visited Buchanan. According to the USAID DART, MODEL

forces controlling the area are preventing inhabitants from leaving territory under MODEL control.

**Approval to reopen the Sierra Leone-Liberia border.** On August 28, the Government of Sierra Leone approved a request by the U.N. Special Representative to Liberia to reopen its border with Liberia in order to transport relief supplies by road to Liberia's interior. At present, no date for the border reopening has been announced.

## **COORDINATION ACTIVITIES**

**Joint coordination meetings in Monrovia.** According to the USAID DART, U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), NGOs, and other humanitarian organizations have been holding regular coordination meetings in Monrovia. Sectoral committees have been established at the coordination meetings in the following five areas: food, health, water and sanitation, protection, and shelter and non-food items (NFI). Sectoral lead organizations are, respectively, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the U.N. Development Program (UNDP)/Country Team, and the UNHCR and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Lead NGOs may partner with U.N. sectoral leads.

## **SECURITY**

**Ongoing security concerns.** Despite the presence of ECOMIL, the security situation remains poor throughout Liberia, limiting humanitarian operations, particularly food and water distributions. According to the USAID DART, security at the Free Port of Monrovia remains a problem as the ECOMIL forces stationed there are limited in number and poorly equipped.

However, security has improved for refugees and IDPs in the Monrovia area. According to international news reports, ECOMIL forces have agreed to patrol the Samukai, Voice of America, and Banjor refugee camps, where thousands of Sierra Leonean refugees have returned, in order to increase the sense of security for refugees and local residents. Patrols will also be extended to the eight IDP camps around Monrovia in the near future.

## **REFUGEES**

**UNHCR relief supplies.** During the weekend of August 30-31, two planeloads of UNHCR relief supplies arrived in Monrovia from Copenhagen, with blankets and jerry cans for 10,000 persons, kitchen sets and plastic sheeting for 20,000, as well as water bladders, rubhalls for warehousing, and four light vehicles. Together with two recent sealifts from Freetown and an airlift of UNHCR's regional stocks from Accra, the organization currently has sufficient stocks in Monrovia for 40,000 people.

**Repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees.** On August 28, after a five-day delay due to a technical failure, the Motor Vessel (MV) Overbeck arrived in Freetown with 154 Sierra Leonean refugees.

## **WATER AND SANITATION**

**White Plains pumping station.** According to the USAID DART, the European Commission (EC) continues to pump water to Bushrod Island through the 16-inch water main from the White Plains plant and to tanker water from Bushrod Island to established distribution locations within Central Monrovia. The White Plains pumping station is pumping approximately 1.5 million gallons per day over a 10-hour period. USAID/OFDA has procured 3,000 gallons of diesel fuel for maintaining operations at the facility.

**Solid waste removal in Monrovia.** USAID/OFDA partner Oxfam and the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) have cleared 40 truckloads of solid waste from five major sites in the city, and have begun clearing waste from the Samuel K. Doe (SKD) stadium as part of a three-month solid waste removal project. The MCC has mobilized approximately 300 people to remove the waste. Sludge removal from latrines at IDP camps such as SKD Stadium and the Masonic Temple will begin in the near future.

**Water purification campaign.** In response to the cholera outbreak in Monrovia, the Liberian Ministry of Health (MoH), WHO, and UNICEF are proceeding with plans to chlorinate 5,372 open wells in the Monrovia area. The chlorination effort began on August 29, with 133 trained staff planning to chlorinate 50 wells each. Chlorinators planned to repeat the process eight times over the following month, or approximately every four days. According to the USAID DART, as of September 1, 1,970 open wells in the Monrovia area have been chlorinated. At present, chlorinators are chlorinating 25 wells per person per day.

## **FUEL**

**Fuel Distributions.** According to the USAID DART, the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (JLC), with USAID/OFDA funding, has improved the delivery of food and other aid to beneficiaries by securing access to fuel, air facilities, and port operations. Since August 15, the JLC has coordinated the distribution of fuel to the Liberia Electric Corporation, RIA emergency services, radio stations, international organizations, and NGOs. By August 24, the JLC coordinated the distribution of 350,000 liters of diesel fuel to 42 humanitarian organizations and public utilities.

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

**Responses to cholera.** According to the USAID DART, there are no clear estimates of the cholera mortality rate in Liberia. The Liberian NGO CARTOON, which has assumed responsibility for disposal of corpses in parts of Monrovia, reported disposing of the corpses of 78 people who died of cholera.

The USAID DART reported that Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)-Holland indicated that it will conduct rapid testing for cholera during future missions to Buchanan and elsewhere in Liberia. Cases of severe diarrhea in adults reported outside Monrovia have not yet been confirmed as cholera. Based on combined data from their treatment centers and Oral Rehydration Treatment (ORT) corners, MSF teams report an overall decline in diarrhea cases and a decline in admissions in their clinics for severe dehydration. In spite of the decline, the number is well above the outbreak threshold of 150 cases per week established by the GOL. The level of cholera outside of Monrovia remains unknown.

**Responses to measles.** According to the USAID DART, on August 29, UNICEF began a one-week mass measles vaccination campaign in Tubmanburg that will conclude on September 4. The campaign will target all children six months to 15 years of age living in the area, and UNICEF estimates a target population of 42,000 children. Children six months to five years of age will also receive Vitamin A supplementation.

The MoH, UNICEF, Save the Children-U.K. (SCF-UK), and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) are coordinating a measles campaign for the Monrovia area. SCF-UK and IRC will implement the campaign. The immunization campaign will target all children between six months and 15 years of age, including children living in IDP settlements and the community at large. Vitamin A supplementation will also be administered.

According to the USAID DART, the lack of a community-wide mass measles campaign in Monrovia remains one of the most significant health concerns at present. To date, at least six cases of measles have been reported in the capital city area within the last two weeks.

## **FOOD**

**WFP and USAID/FFP operations.** WFP indicated that on August 15 it began food distributions in several areas of Monrovia. WFP reported that it currently has 10,000 metric tons (MTs) of food commodities on reserve for Liberia in the region, and 7,000 MTs at sea due to arrive by early September.

USAID Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) reported that 15,700 MTs of USAID/FFP food commodities are scheduled to arrive in the region in early September.

These commodities were donated to WFP for the West Africa Coastal Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) that includes Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Liberia.

As of September 1, WFP reported that 2,647 MTs of food for 408,716 people have been distributed directly or through NGO partners in Monrovia. Since August 26, WFP has also reached 117,838 IDPs in Margibi, Bong and Montserrado counties, not including food distributed in Monrovia. According to the USAID DART, the next commodities delivery is expected by ship on September 9.

According to the USAID DART, WFP's Regional Director stated that the WFP food pipeline will ensure availability of food commodities through December 2003. The Regional Director also noted that the number of beneficiaries may increase, depending on the likely discovery of widespread food insecurity in the inaccessible counties.

## **NUTRITION**

***MSF-France therapeutic feeding center.*** According to the USAID DART, MSF-France is operating a therapeutic feeding center (TFC) in Salala camp in Bong County, and is currently treating a maximum capacity of 250 children. According to the USAID DART, on average MSF-France admits 20 children per day suffering from severe malnutrition. MSF-Holland will begin nutritional screening in the Bushrod area and plans to establish a TFC.

According to the USAID DART, Merlin representatives report increasing numbers of children with signs of malnutrition in the Firestone and Harbel areas. These children are newly arrived to the settlement from the Buchanan Highway.

## **PROTECTION**

***Child protection activities.*** The first sector working group on protection met on August 25. From August 28 to the week of September 1, the U.N. plans to conduct a number of missions outside of Monrovia in order to begin consolidating information on protection issues and to discern priority interventions where possible.

On August 28, a Joint Monitoring Group on Protection composed of representatives from UNICEF, UNDP, NGOs, and the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), visited six of the nine camps in Montserrado County to speak to IDPs present at the camps and gather information on alleged human rights violations and protection issues. According to the USAID DART, the Joint Monitoring Group reported that the most consistent reports of human rights violations were rapes of IDP women, including pregnant and elderly women, as well as young girls and boys. The IDPs

reported that both GOL and LURD forces carried out the rapes.

## **USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

**(New information is in blue.)**

### ***Non-food Assistance***

In FY 2003 to date, USAID/OFDA has approved more than \$4.4 million to support humanitarian needs in Liberia. USAID/OFDA provided more than \$517,000 to Action Against Hunger (ACF) in support of emergency nutrition needs in Monrovia and provided more than \$751,000 to Merlin to address emergency health and water and sanitation needs throughout Liberia.

USAID/OFDA provided more than \$616,000 in funding to IRC to support water and sanitation activities and the provision of non-food items to IDPs in Monrovia.

USAID/OFDA provided more than \$330,000 in funding to Oxfam to support multi-sector IDP response activities in Monrovia. USAID/OFDA provided more than

\$320,000 to UN OCHA to support coordination and protection of IDPs. USAID/OFDA also approved

\$310,000 in funding to UN OCHA for a Humanitarian Information Center. USAID/OFDA approved \$500,000 in funding to WFP for a Joint Logistics Center.

USAID/OFDA approved more than \$546,000 in funding to Johns Hopkins University (JHU) for malaria control and prevention.

USAID initially deployed a three-person DART, including a Team Leader, Program Officer, and Information Officer, on August 6. This team has since expanded to include a Security Officer, USAID/FFP Officer, and a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Epidemiologist. In addition, a USAID Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs (USAID/LPA) Officer is in Sierra Leone to assist the DART.

On August 15, USAID/OFDA airlifted 26,470 kg of relief commodities to Monrovia in support of emergency water, shelter, and health needs. The commodities included 300 rolls of plastic sheeting, 5,000 wool blankets, 5,000 10-liter jerry cans, and five 3,000-gallon water bladders. The relief items will benefit approximately 15,000 people. In addition, the airlift included a WHO emergency health kit that has basic medical essentials for 30,000 people for one month. The total value of the commodities, including transport, is \$224,352.

The commodities were assigned to humanitarian organizations including the IRC, ACF, SCF, ICRC, and Merlin, and will be distributed to targeted clinics, orphanages, therapeutic feeding centers, and IDP centers in Monrovia and the Harbel and Firestone rubber plantation area.

### ***Emergency Food Assistance***

Including its latest \$10 million contribution provided in response to the U.N. Appeal, USAID/FFP has provided a total of 23,840 MTs of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at \$15.5 million, to Liberia. The commodities provided by USAID/FFP include a combination of cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil, and Corn Soya Blend for therapeutic and supplementary feeding. USAID/FFP emergency food assistance is provided to vulnerable populations through direct distribution, food for work programs, emergency school feeding, maternal and child health programs, and supplementary and therapeutic feeding programs. USAID/FFP programs are implemented in Liberia through WFP.

### ***Refugee Assistance***

The State Department's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has provided support for Liberian refugees since 1989 and for Sierra Leonean refugees in Liberia since 1991. [To date in FY 2003, State/PRM has provided more than \\$10 million in response to the Liberia crisis. This funding includes \\$2.2 million to UNHCR for assistance to refugees in Liberia, \\$4.4 million to ICRC for assistance to IDPs and conflict victims, \\$826,164 to WFP in support of WFP's trucking capacity in Liberia, nearly \\$1.6 million to UNICEF for water and sanitation efforts in support of populations in Liberia, \\$298,000 to UNDP and the Office of the U.N. Security Coordinator \(UNSECOORD\) in support of its field security offices, and \\$738,095 to support WHO's water and sanitation efforts as well as disease monitoring and assistance.](#)

State/PRM has also provided nearly \$13 million to UNHCR and more than \$13 million to various NGOs to support Liberian refugees in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Sierra Leone. [This is in addition to unearmarked funding for UNHCR for Africa \(\\$55.1 million\) and ICRC for Africa \(\\$52.6 million\).](#)

**U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA**

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>LIBERIA – FY 2003 (TO DATE)</b>				
<b>USAID Total</b> .....				<b>\$19,617,285</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA</b> .....				<b>\$4,117,285</b>
	ACF	Nutrition	Monrovia	\$517,773
	Merlin	Health and Water/Sanitation	Monrovia, Harbel	\$751,011
	IRC	Water/Sanitation and non-food items	Monrovia	\$616,774
	Oxfam	Multi-sector IDP response	Monrovia	\$330,662
	UN OCHA	Coordination and protection of IDPs	Country-wide	\$320,000
	OFDA	Logistics and relief commodities	Monrovia	\$224,352
	WFP*	Joint Logistics Center	Country-wide	\$500,000
	UN OCHA*	Humanitarian Information Center	Country-wide	\$310,000
	Johns Hopkins	Malaria Control and Prevention	Country-wide	\$546,713
<b>USAID/FFP</b> .....				<b>\$15,500,000</b>
	WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Food Assistance – 23,840 MTs	Country-wide	\$15,500,000
<b>STATE/PRM<sup>∞</sup></b> .....				<b>\$10,059,759</b>
	UNHCR	Annual Refugee Operations	Country-wide	\$2,200,000
	WFP	WFP Support	Country-wide	\$826,164
	UNICEF	Water/Sanitation for IDPs	Country-wide	\$1,597,500
	UNDP/ UNSECOORD	Field Security Office Operations	Country-wide	\$298,000
	WHO	Water/Sanitation, disease monitoring and assessment	Country-wide	\$738,095
	ICRC	Emergency health and relief distribution	Country-wide	\$4,400,000
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA IN FY 2003 (TO DATE)</b> .....				<b>\$29,677,044</b>

\* Funding is in process; award to be made shortly.

<sup>∞</sup> State/PRM figures include funding within Liberia. State/PRM also provides additional Africa-wide and regional assistance not reflected in this total. Please see the USG Humanitarian Assistance section for further details.



Bernd McConnell  
 Director  
 Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

**Public Donation Information**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for their response efforts in Liberia can be found at: <http://www.interaction.org/liberia/index.html>. USAID encourages cash donations because they: allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed; reduce the burden on scarce resources; can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information on making donations and volunteering services can be found at:
  - [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/help/index.html](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/help/index.html)
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or 703-276-1914
  - InterAction: [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org) → “Guide to Appropriate Giving”
- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.org](http://www.reliefweb.org).