



**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 #10, Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

September 10, 2003

*Note: This Situation Report updates USAID/OFDA Liberia Situation Report #9, dated September 3, 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) ..... \$5,890,379**

**Total FY 2003 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Liberia (To Date) ..... \$31,450,138**

**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.

On September 9, 600 peacekeepers from Guinea-Bissau deployed to Kakata and Totota, 45km and 109 km north of Monrovia, respectively, to investigate reports of fighting. This is the first ECOMIL deployment outside of Monrovia. ECOMIL troops were initially scheduled to deploy on September 8, but were delayed due to renewed fighting between GOL troops and LURD forces.

After September 10, contingents from Benin and Togo are expected to deploy to Buchanan. With the expected arrival of 250 troops from Benin on September 10, the ECOMIL force is expected to reach its intended full strength of 3,500 soldiers. A United Nations (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.

**Renewed fighting between LURD and GOL forces.** On September 7, fighting between LURD and GOL forces near the town of Todee, northwest of Monrovia, delayed ECOMIL plans to deploy to Kakata and Totota, and led to the displacement of approximately 10,000 people. On September 9, LURD forces seized the town of Kakata, previously under the control of GOL troops, shortly before ECOMIL peacekeepers deployed there.

## INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

### **Internally Displaced Person (IDP) Movements.**

According to international news reports and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), during the week of September 1, fighting between GOL and LURD forces and continued insecurity in central Liberia led to the movement of more than 50,000 IDPs to Totota and neighboring Salala from villages north of Totota. U.N. agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have provided humanitarian assistance to the IDPs and solicited the cooperation of ECOMIL and the U.S. Air Force in order to avert a large exodus to Monrovia.

On September 6, an inter-agency mission composed of U.N. representatives visited Salala and nearby Falala. The mission team, in consultation with NGO partners, reconfirmed that after security, the urgent humanitarian

needs of the IDPs included the provision of basic shelter, access to potable water, and food aid.

**Expansion of Humanitarian Corridors.** On September 4, an inter-agency convoy including U.N. representatives, USAID/OFDA implementing partner Oxfam, and other NGOs traveled to Salala with 12 trucks of relief supplies. Immediate humanitarian assistance was delivered to the estimated 50,000 newly-arrived IDPs. According to an ECOMIL representative, ECOMIL forces planned to deploy to Salala on September 8 to stabilize the area.

On September 5, the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) visited MODEL-controlled Buchanan as part of a UNHCR-led convoy. The DART assessed three sites during the visit, including the government hospital that is supported by USAID/OFDA implementing partner Medical Emergency Relief International (Merlin). Merlin is re-supplying the facility with basic equipment and supplies, and has been able to reestablish an out-patient department and maternal child health services. The hospital will be able to accept in-patients within a week. Re-supply remains an issue due to continued insecurity in Buchanan.

## 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 U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the U.N. Development Program (UNDP)/Country Team, and UNHCR and ICRC. Lead NGOs may partner with U.N. sectoral leads.

## SECURITY

**Ongoing security concerns.** Despite the presence of ECOMIL forces in Monrovia, the security situation remains poor in much of Liberia, limiting the delivery of humanitarian assistance. However, according to international news reports, ECOMIL's regular patrols to areas around Monrovia, including surrounding IDP sites, have raised the sense of security of the local population.

According to the DART, humanitarian convoys to Buchanan continue to meet with delays and harassment by MODEL forces at checkpoints. Continued efforts by the U.S. Ambassador, U.N. officials, and NGO representatives to engage the MODEL leadership in order to address access and security issues for Buchanan have been unsuccessful. Due to the security situation, the

anticipated ECOMIL deployment to Buchanan on September 5 has been postponed due to a lack of transportation and logistical support.

## **WATER AND SANITATION**

**DART Assessments.** During the week of September 1, the DART visited the IDP settlements at Greystone and the Masonic Temple in Monrovia, both of which are run by Merlin. According to the DART, the number of IDPs at the Greystone settlement is approximately 2,000 people. With only 18 functioning latrines in the settlement, sanitation is a major concern. Merlin's Out-Patient Department at Greystone continues to diagnose malaria cases using the Paracheck rapid malaria test provided by the Johns Hopkins Malaria Emergency Technical and Operational Response (MENTOR) initiative, which USAID/OFDA funds. The DART reported that water and sanitation continue to be the major concerns in the Masonic Temple IDP settlement.

**Water purification campaign.** In response to the cholera outbreak in Monrovia, the Liberian Ministry of Health (MoH), WHO, and UNICEF began chlorinating 5,372 open wells in the Monrovia area. To date, in Phase I, 4,000 wells have been chlorinated. The campaign has been slower than expected due to inclement weather and the loss of equipment due to looting. A second phase of well chlorination will begin in the near future, and chlorinators will begin re-chlorinating those wells already treated under Phase I.

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

**Responses to malaria.** According to international news reports, malaria accounts for between 30 and 45 percent of all illnesses reported at health centers for IDPs in Monrovia. Malaria is still the leading cause of mortality in Liberia, and the majority of cases are children under five years of age and pregnant mothers. The MENTOR program is coordinating an inter-agency response to malaria in Liberia with the Liberian Ministry of Health (MoH) and various NGOs. To address the malaria situation, the MENTOR program, the Malaria Control Division of the Liberian MoH, and other health agencies have developed a national strategic plan for malaria control.

Representatives of the MENTOR program are launching health education campaigns among IDPs and stockpiling various medicines to treat malaria. According to a MENTOR representative, intensive malaria control activities will be launched within two to three weeks, beginning in the city center and continuing in camps on the outskirts of Monrovia.

**Responses to cholera.** During the week of September 1, WHO released revised surveillance data on cholera in Monrovia after data from additional sites was included

retrospectively. To date, over the last two weeks suspected cases have increased from 1,453 to 2,035. However, admissions for severe dehydration related to diarrhea have decreased over the same time period from 259 to 203. The general assessment of the cholera situation in Monrovia by NGO partners and other health-related organizations is that the situation remains of concern but is not out of control.

According to international news reports, Merlin has confirmed at least 15 cases of cholera in Buchanan. In response to these latest cases, Merlin opened a cholera treatment center in the government hospital and is currently investigating the status of Buchanan's water sources.

**Responses to measles.** The measles campaign sponsored by UNICEF continues in the Tubmanburg area. As of September 3, UNICEF had vaccinated a total of 3,100 children between the ages of six months and 15 years, and 1,409 children received Vitamin A supplementation.

USAID/OFDA implementing partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Save the Children Fund-U.K. (SCF-UK) are collaborating on a mass measles campaign for IDP settlements and the local community in Monrovia, giving priority to those settlements that were not covered in previous campaigns. Since August 10, IRC has vaccinated 26,093 children in IDP settlements in the Monrovia area. UNICEF and WHO will start a measles vaccination campaign in the Buchanan area in the near future.

## **EDUCATION**

**Efforts to re-open schools in Monrovia.** UNICEF is spearheading a Back-to-School campaign and is working with the Liberian Ministry of Education (MoE) to achieve this objective. The MoE issued a directive on September 3 stating that all IDPs seeking shelter in schools should move out of these schools by September 15 to allow them to re-open on October 20 for the new school year.

According to international media, approximately 30,000 IDPs are seeking shelter in 56 schools and a health clinic. The relocation of IDPs from schools, clinics, and other informal shelters remains a pressing issue, but many IDPs are reluctant to leave the school buildings and return to their original camps since they fear it is not yet safe enough outside the city center. Beginning September 11, the U.N. and NGO partners will begin relocating IDPs from these schools to camps in Montserrado County, where they resided prior to the most recent conflict. In preparation for the arrival of IDPs, security for these camps has been further enhanced by the establishment of an ECOMIL presence.

According to international news reports, UNICEF estimates that 3,000 schools will reopen for 750,000 children country-wide. The schools will be staffed by 20,000 teachers and WFP is exploring using a Work-for-Food Program to feed them.

## FOOD

**WFP and USAID/FFP operations.** WFP indicated that on August 15 it began food distributions in several areas of Monrovia.

USAID Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) reported that 15,700 metric tons (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.

From August 16 to September 5, WFP distributed 2,994 MTs of food to 419,177 beneficiaries. In order to increase the daily discharge rate from food aid vessels in the Free Port of Monrovia, WFP is making arrangements to run a two-shift operation at the Free Port.

On September 5, WFP started the second cycle of emergency bulk distributions for IDPs in temporary shelters in Monrovia. The ration consists of seven kg of commmeal per person for two weeks. WFP suspended food deliveries over the weekend of September 6-7 in order to re-assess beneficiary numbers because of the high flux of IDPs in recent weeks. This will allow better targeting of food assistance in the second round of food distributions.

On September 9, WFP distributed 4 MTs of various commodities to the Catholic Mission and the Merlin-supported hospital in Buchanan. The food aid will target in-patients, pregnant and lactating mothers, and moderately malnourished children under the age of five.

The Seabulk Martin I returned to the Free Port of Monrovia on September 6 with non-food items and 78 MTs of vegetable oil. The contract for the Seabulk Martin I was extended, and the vessel will continue to operate off Monrovia and assist in inter-agency missions to Harper and possibly Buchanan, until March 28, 2004.

On September 9, the Motor Vessel (MV) Maersk Constellation arrived in Monrovia carrying 6,440 MTs of Title II emergency commodities. On September 9, the MV Sea Athina also arrived in Monrovia with 14,000 MTs of commercial rice. It is expected that this new supply of rice to the market will stabilize and lower the price of rice in Liberia.

WFP has started discussions with UNICEF regarding emergency school feeding as a medium-term strategy for targeted food assistance in Monrovia. WFP is considering targeted food assistance programs for vulnerable households in an attempt to avoid the need for food distributions to the general public, as general distribution programs have a tendency to continue beyond the required emergency period and are difficult to manage.

## NUTRITION

**DART Assessment.** During a visit to the Firestone area during the week of September 1, the DART assessed two sites and found that a number of children appeared moderately malnourished and one child was severely malnourished. According to Merlin, many of these children were newly arrived to the settlement from the Buchanan Highway. USAID/OFDA implementing partner Action Against Hunger (ACF) is planning a nutritional screening in the area beginning the week of September 8. ACF will also establish a supplementary feeding center in the near future, while severe malnutrition cases will continue to be referred to the therapeutic feeding center at Samuel K. Doe Stadium.

## USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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

### *Non-food Assistance*

In FY 2003 to date, USAID/OFDA has approved more than \$5.8 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, and provided \$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/OFDA approved more than \$1 million to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for food distribution to non-registered IDPs. In support of a measles campaign in Monrovia and IDP Health and Protection, USAID/OFDA approved more than \$739,000 to SCF.

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, a USAID/FFP Officer, a USAID Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) Abuse Prevention Officer, an IDP Protection Officer, a State Department Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) Refugee Officer, and a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Epidemiologist.

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***

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 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>\$21,390,379</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA .....</b>				<b>\$5,890,379</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
	Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Food distribution to unregistered IDPs	Montserrado County	\$1,033,522
	SCF-UK	Measles campaign, IDP health and protection	Monrovia	\$739,572
<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	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>\$31,450,138</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).