



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

**MANO RIVER COUNTRIES (GUINEA, LIBERIA,
AND SIERRA LEONE) – Complex Emergency**

Situation Report #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

October 9, 2002

Note: The last situation report was dated June 12, 2002.

BACKGROUND

Since 1990, sustained conflict in the Mano River basin has spread across borders and engulfed the region in a severe humanitarian crisis. Civil wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone in the early 1990's led to the exodus of more than one million refugees to Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea over the course of the decade. In addition to refugees, sporadic fighting internally displaced an estimated one to two million people throughout the region. Although Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone formed the Mano River Union economic pact in 1973, the conflicts of the past decade severely strained political and economic relations between the three states. A struggle for control of diamond fields in Sierra Leone has been at the heart of the crisis in recent years. Several failed peace accords and peacekeeping efforts, collapsed economies, and some of the worst human rights atrocities in recent history made this one of the world's most severe humanitarian crises. Although 2001 brought improved security in Guinea and Sierra Leone, an upsurge in fighting in Liberia continues to threaten the stability of the region. Since 1990, the United States Government (USG) has provided more than \$970 million in emergency assistance to those affected by war in the Mano River Countries.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE				
	Guinea	Liberia	Sierra Leone	TOTAL
IDPs	100,000-300,000 ¹	126,427 ²	12,000 ³	232,000-432,000
Refugees	173,000 ⁴	66,000 ⁴	30,000 ⁴	269,000

¹ UN OCHA (5/02). ² UN OCHA (9/02). ³ U.N. DPKO (7/02). ⁴ State/PRM (9/02). ⁵

Total FY 2002 USAID/OFDA Assistance to the Mano River Countries *\$12,086,839
Total FY 2002 USG Humanitarian Assistance to the Mano River Countries **\$71,040,653

CURRENT SITUATION – REGION

Political

On September 11, 2002, security ministers from Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone pledged to renew peace-building efforts in the region during a two-day meeting in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The ministers agreed to conduct a border tour comprised of high-level officials from each of the countries in December 2002. The meeting continued an initiative launched in Morocco in February, during which the Presidents of the three countries agreed to increase security along the common borders, support refugee repatriation, continue assistance for displaced persons, and reactivate economic development through the Mano River Union.

developed an action plan for combating sexual exploitation and abuse in humanitarian crisis in July 2002. In August, Save the Children Alliance and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with support from UNICEF, launched a regional training initiative for humanitarian workers in Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, and Liberia entitled "Action for the Rights of Children" (ARC). In addition to addressing sexual exploitation and abuse, the program will cover unaccompanied children, child soldiers, disability, landmine awareness, female education, and child and adolescent preventive health.

CURRENT SITUATION – GUINEA

Security

The security situation has been stable throughout most of Guinea since late 2001. However, as a result of recent fighting in Liberia, more than 13,000 new refugees have entered Guinea since May 2002. The new arrivals, mostly

Sexual Exploitation Report

The Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises, co-chaired by the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA),

* Additional information on USAID Development Assistance funds to the Mano River Countries can be found at:

** These contributions are in addition to State/PRM's unearmarked contribution to UNHCR for Africa, totaling \$29.8 million to date in FY 2002.

women, children, and the elderly, report continued problems with Liberian security restrictions when attempting to cross into Guinea.

IDPs

Results of the Government of Guinea (GOG) census of internally displaced persons (IDPs) have yet to be published, and estimates of the number of IDPs in Guinea range from 100,000 to 300,000.

Refugees

On August 17, UNHCR launched a major beneficiary registration in three refugee camps in southeastern Guinea. The registration will allow non-governmental organizations (NGOs) supporting the camps to update statistics on the characteristics and size of the current refugee population. On August 31, UNICEF reported that the number of registered refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone totaled 94,402. However, thousands of additional unregistered refugees have established unauthorized settlements or are residing with host families.

According to a September 27 World Food Program (WFP) report, all humanitarian activity in the Koyama sub-prefecture, near the Liberian border, has been suspended following armed confrontation between the Guinean army and unidentified armed assailants, presumed to be from Liberia.

CURRENT SITUATION – LIBERIA

Political / Security

Violent conflict has continued between the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) and the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) in northern Liberia, mostly in Lofa County. The overall situation continued to deteriorate in 2002 as sporadic fighting and insecurity hindered the efforts of relief agencies to reach vulnerable populations. On June 20, LURD forces abducted five Liberian nurses. The nurses were released to UNHCR on September 2, following weeks of negotiations. On August 21, Government of Liberia (GOL) troops arrested and detained a MERCI employee near the border with Sierra Leone. The relief worker was released on August 30.

President Charles Taylor launched a national peace and reconciliation conference in Monrovia on August 24, without major opposition leaders in attendance. On September 14, President Taylor lifted the government-imposed ban on political rallies and public gatherings, and on September 18, the GOL began removing soldiers from the streets of Monrovia after lifting the state of emergency imposed in February 2002.

IDPs

According to UN OCHA, the number of IDPs in Liberia increased from 45,000 in January 2002 to 126,427 in August, although estimates from other sources range from 90,000 to 200,000. In September, the World Food

WFP resumed 100 percent distribution of emergency food assistance rations to IDPs, as well as Sierra Leonean refugees. The rations were reduced by 50 percent in July as a result of the delayed arrival of cereal commodities.

Refugees

According to U.S. Committee for Refugees (USCR) estimates, the security of 30,000 Sierra Leonean refugees in Liberia is threatened by the conflict in Liberia. USCR issued an appeal for the rapid repatriation of the refugees to Sierra Leone. As of August 2002, however, less than 5,000 Sierra Leonean refugees had registered for repatriation. The refugees cited the absence of civil authority and the lack of schools, healthcare, and job opportunities in Sierra Leone as reasons for remaining in Liberia.

Health

In early September, the Liberian Ministry of Health reported a major outbreak of cholera in Monrovia and surrounding areas. By September 1, the World Health Organization (WHO) had received reports of 661 cases of cholera in Montserrado County. According to UN OHCA, cases of cholera are increasing in Liberia as a result of inadequate water supplies and poor sanitary conditions throughout the country, as well as in IDP camps. Nearly 70 percent of the total population lacks access to potable water and proper sanitation. The main water treatment plant in Monrovia, damaged in early fighting, has yet to be repaired.

In June 2002, USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 through USAID/Liberia to repair the Phebe hospital, which was damaged during a May 7 attack on the city of Gbanga by LURD forces.

CURRENT SITUATION – SIERRA LEONE

Political / Security

The security situation in Sierra Leone, which has steadily improved since August 2000, was bolstered by the May 2002 re-election of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. However, areas near the Liberian border remain unstable as a result of continued border incursions by both the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) and LURD. According to UN OCHA, the humanitarian community operating in Sierra Leone has developed an alert system to inform agencies of security incidents near the border. On July 16, 2002, LURD militia abducted 20 people from the villages of Sanga, Kolu, and Manduvuluhun. The villagers were still reported missing at the end of August and are presumed to be in Liberia.

On September 5, 2002, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan recommended a six-month extension for the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and the gradual downsizing of the mission from the current level of 17,000 peacekeeping troops to 5,000 by 2004. The U.N. Security Council approved the renewal of UNAMSIL's mandate on September 18. President Kabbah requested the extension in August 2002, citing

the threat posed to Sierra Leone's fragile peace by renewed insecurity in Liberia.

DDR Process

The Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) campaign in Sierra Leone officially ended on January 7, 2002. According to the National Committee for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (NCDDR), approximately 21,000 of the 54,000 ex-combatants are participating in reintegration programs; 10,509 former soldiers have completed the program.

IDPs and Resettlement

According to the U.N. Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UN DPKO), less than 12,000 IDPs remained in Sierra Leone as of July 2002.* The remaining IDPs are mainly in the Tonkolili District. UNHCR completed the resettlement of registered Sierra Leonean IDPs from camps in the Pujehun District in August 2002 leaving the camps occupied almost exclusively by Liberian refugees. The Government of Sierra Leone (GOSL) expects resettlement efforts to be completed by October 2002.

Refugee Returnees

The number of refugees returning to Sierra Leone from Liberia continues to decline. As of September 2002, UNHCR reports indicated that approximately 30,000 Sierra Leoneans remained in Liberia. According to UN OCHA, the refugees are awaiting more favorable social and economic conditions to develop in Sierra Leone before returning. In September, repatriation vessels, with capacities of 300, transported between 50 and 100 returnees per trip. On September 10, UNHCR announced the temporary suspension of repatriation efforts until refugee demand increases. According to UNHCR, of the 2,000 Sierra Leonean refugees in Nigeria, only 270 have registered for repatriation. UNHCR resumed overland repatriation of refugees from Guinea following a 42-day suspension resulting from logistical problems. As of August 2002, 42,000 Sierra Leonean refugees remained in Guinea.

* These estimates do not account for unregistered IDPs or those assimilated into urban areas.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE MANO RIVER COUNTRIES

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<u>Guinea – FY 2002</u>				
USAID				\$3,595,300
USAID/OFDA				\$375,000
	WFP	Air Support and Vulnerability Assessment Mapping	Countrywide	\$375,000
USAID/FFP				\$3,220,300
	WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Food Assistance – 5,150 MT		\$3,220,300
STATE/PRM*				\$13,211,908
	AAH/USA	Health, Nutrition, Water/Sanitation, Food Security		\$815,000
	ARC	Micro-credit		\$478,460
	ARC	Health and the Prevention of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)		\$1,974,502
	ARC	Refugee Support		\$390,555
	Center for Victims of Torture	Refugee and Mental Health		\$798,987
	IFRC	Refugee Support		\$650,000
	IFRC	HIV/AIDS		\$38,000
	IRC	Education, Reproductive Health, SGBV Response		\$1,587,777
	SCF/US	Reintegration of Ex-Combatants / At-Risk Children		\$858,627
	UNHCR	Refugee Support		\$4,700,000
	UNHCR	Refugee Children		\$700,000
	UN OCHA	Field Coordination		\$200,000
	U.S. Embassy in Guinea	Refugee Small Project Fund		\$20,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GUINEA IN FY 2002				\$16,807,208
<u>Liberia – FY 2002</u>				
USAID				\$3,101,800
USAID/OFDA				\$275,000
	UN OCHA	Coordination and Information		\$250,000
	USAID/Liberia	Health		\$25,000
USAID/FFP				\$2,826,800
	WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Food Assistance – 5,480 MT		\$2,826,800
STATE/PRM*				\$3,158,986
	ACF	Health, Nutrition		\$193,500
	ICFC	Refugee Support		\$460,000
	ICRC	Emergency Appeal		\$1,000,000
	IRC	SGBV Response		\$275,486
	UNHCR	Refugee Support		\$1,230,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA IN FY 2002				\$6,260,786
<u>Sierra Leone – FY 2002</u>				
USAID				\$35,639,639
USAID/OFDA				\$11,436,839
	AAH/USA	Nutrition, Water/Sanitation	Western Area and Northern Province	\$1,151,678

	Africare	Agriculture, Health	Tonkolili, Kailahun	\$799,999
	CARE	Rural Resettlement		\$2,118,389
	CRS	Agriculture, Health, Shelter	Northern, Eastern, Southern Provinces	\$1,184,579
	CRS	Shelter and PHU Rehabilitation		\$314,022
	FAO	Agriculture	Country-wide	\$200,000
	IMC	Health	Port Loko, Kambia District	\$390,912
	IRC	Health	Kono District	\$899,956
	MERLIN	Health, Water/Sanitation	Freetown, Tonkolili, and Kenema Districts	\$412,172
	MERLIN	Health, Water/Sanitation		\$765,000
	UMCOR	Agriculture		\$586,781
	UN OCHA	Coordination, Information	Country-wide	\$300,000
	WV	Agriculture	Kono District and Southern Province	\$995,173
	WV	Health	Kono District	\$700,878
	WFP	Air Support	Country-wide	\$500,000
	Administrative Costs			\$117,300
USAID/FFP.....				\$24,202,800
	CARE	P.L. 480 Title II Food Assistance – 6,530 MT		\$4,517,700
	CRS	P.L. 480 Title II Food Assistance – 12,900 MT		\$7,896,900
	WVI	P.L. 480 Title II Food Assistance – 9,060 MT		\$6,292,100
	WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Food Assistance – 8,850 MT		\$5,496,100
STATE/PRM*				\$12,333,020
	ARC	Micro-credit		\$1,036,648
	Center for Victims of Torture	Refugee, Mental Health		\$999,699
	IFRC	Refugee Support		\$460,000
	IFRC	HIV/AIDS		\$75,000
	IMC	Health Service for Returnees		\$1,322,651
	IRC	School Rehabilitation / SGBV Response		\$1,999,022
	UNHCR	Refugee Support		\$2,840,000
	UNHCR	Refugee Children		\$300,000
	UNHCR	Emergency Repatriation Appeal		\$2,100,000
	UNICEF	Water/Sanitation, Health		\$950,000
	WHO	Health		\$250,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SIERRA LEONE IN FY 2002				\$47,972,659

*These contributions are in addition to State/PRM's unemarked contribution to UNHCR for Africa, totaling \$29.8 million in FY 2002.



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USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html.

