



**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 #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

October 1, 2003

*Note: This Situation Report updates USAID/OFDA Liberia Situation Report #12, FY 2003, dated September 24, 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 resulted in the longstanding internal displacement of approximately 500,000 of the country's three million inhabitants and widespread human suffering.

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 40,000 Liberians in Ghana 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, September 2003 UNHCR, August 2003

**Total FY 2003 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Liberia (To Date) ..... \$5,853,886**  
**Total FY 2003 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Liberia (To Date) ..... \$35,504,782**

**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. Unconfirmed reports estimate that this outbreak of the fighting killed approximately 1,000 people.

***Transition of power within the government.*** 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. On August 17, GOL, LURD, and MODEL participants at peace negotiations in Accra, Ghana signed a peace

agreement allowing for an interim government to assume power on October 14. The parties to the agreement chose Gyude Bryant as Chairman and Wesley Johnson as Vice-Chairman of the country's interim government.

***LURD declares the end of hostilities in Liberia.*** LURD chairman Sekou Conneh announced the end of hostilities between LURD and the GOL on September 23 soon after returning from exile in Guinea. On September 27, Conneh met with a representative from the transitional government. Conneh was scheduled to meet with President Blah on October 1, but an attack on Conneh's motorcade that day led to cancellation of the meeting.

***Peace-keeping troop deployments and movements.*** On August 4, the vanguard Nigerian troops of the Economic Community of West Africa Mission in Liberia (ECOMIL) peace-keeping force began to arrive in Liberia. Since then,

ECOMIL troops have expanded to include contingents from Nigeria, Guinea-Bissau, Ghana, Senegal, Mali, Benin, Gambia, and Togo, for a total of 3,500 troops.

On September 19, the Security Council of the United Nations (U.N.) voted to establish a peace-keeping force for Liberia consisting of approximately 15,000 troops. The force will assist in implementing the August cease-fire and peace agreement that aims to have national elections by the end of 2005. The U.N. Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) will also consist of approximately 1,115 police officers, along with a civilian component. ECOMIL will transfer authority to UNMIL on October 1, and ECOMIL forces will become part of UNMIL. On September 29, the U.N. announced the appointment of Lieutenant-General Daniel Opande of Kenya as Force Commander of UNMIL. On September 19, the Government of Norway announced that it will contribute two officers to UNMIL. A battalion from Bangladesh is scheduled for deployment in the Monrovia area in the next two weeks.

The U.S. Government positioned 2,300 U.S. Marines off the coast of Liberia to assist the ECOMIL peace-keeping troops in August. On September 27-28, two of the three ships, the USS Carter Hall and the USS Nashville, left Liberia. The third ship, the USS Iwo Jima, left September 30.

## **INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS**

**Relocation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Monrovia to Montserrado County camps.** On September 11, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and ECOMIL began a relocation operation to transport approximately 30,000 IDPs from 56 schools and a clinic to camps in Montserrado County. On September 29, UNHCR resumed the relocation operation after an 11-day suspension in order to re-assess the situation.

**Expansion of humanitarian corridors.** Humanitarian organizations are expanding beyond Monrovia. On September 22, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) announced the creation of five regional centers for humanitarian response in: Sagleipie (Nimba County), Voinjama (Lofa County), Gbargna/Phebe (Bong County), Harper (Maryland County), and Zwedru (Grand Gedeh County). Various U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have also made humanitarian assessment missions to Gbargna, Zwedru, and Zorzor.

**New IDP sites.** According to the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), three new IDP sites will likely be made official in the near future. The sites - Mount Barclay, Fendell, and New Land - are all in the Kakata area. Camp leaders reported that Mount Barclay accommodates approximately 10,000 IDPs, New Land houses 5,454 IDPs and 17,100 IDPs reside in Fendell. The

DART has not determined whether these sites are a result of the new influx of IDPs from areas around Gbargna and from Todi, or whether nearby communities are also sending representatives to establish huts in order to receive services.

**Non-food items.** On September 25, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) started distribution of large quantities of non-food items in IDP camps in the areas surrounding Monrovia. To date, IRC has distributed almost 9,000 items, such as blankets, buckets, straw mats, and pots at the New Land camp. During the week of September 28, distributions will continue in the main IDP camp at Salala and in 12 Monrovia orphanages.

**Continued displacement in Nimba County.** The DART reported that clashes between MODEL and GOL, as well as general looting, have resulted in a large displaced population in Nimba County. According to the DART, 30,000 – 60,000 IDPs are in the town of Sagleipie, in Nimba County.

## **SECURITY**

**Improvements in security.** On September 29, UN OCHA announced an inter-agency recommendation to downgrade the Security Phase from V to IV in Zwedru to allow for humanitarian operations.

The ECOMIL deployment has improved security in Monrovia, IDP camps in Montserrado County, and along three major highways leading to the towns of Buchanan, Tubmanburg, and Totota. However, violence and harassment against civilians has persisted in areas outside ECOMIL's security zone.

## **PROTECTION**

**Field Mission to Totota.** On September 27, the DART conducted a field mission to the Totota area. During the last two weeks of September, hundreds of new IDPs arrived at IDP camps near Totota daily, fleeing brutal attacks by combatants who continue to plunder isolated villages in the bush due north, northeast, east, and southeast of Totota.

According to the DART, IDPs have reported that combatants are harassing civilians, looting, raping women, and conducting summary executions. The pervasive insecurity beyond the ECOMIL deployment has also exacted an economic and nutritional toll on IDPs in Totota-area camps by hindering the ability of camp residents to journey into the bush to earn money performing contract labor. The majority of persons stated that they were unable to identify their attackers.

**Continued human rights violations in Buchanan and Tubmanburg.** Although security has improved in Buchanan since the deployment of ECOMIL troops to the outskirts of town in early September, the town and surrounding areas remain under MODEL control where

human rights violations continue. According to a joint assessment by several humanitarian agencies in mid-September, reports of harassment and looting by armed men occurred almost nightly in Buchanan. In late-September, The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) raised concerns that economic need has caused some local girls to intensify their activities as child sex workers.

LURD forces continue to control Tubmanburg despite the ECOMIL presence on the edge of town. According to the DART, Tubmanburg residents reported petty theft and occasional rape by LURD combatants.

### **COORDINATION ACTIVITIES**

**Joint coordination meetings in Monrovia.** According to the USAID DART, 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. Sectoral lead organizations are, respectively, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, the U.N. Development Program (UNDP)/Country Team, and UNHCR and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

### **INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

**Malaria.** The rate of malaria remains high with 6,384 cases reported by the DART during the week of September 15. The Liberian Ministry of Health, WHO, Medical Emergency Relief International (Merlin), and UNICEF are initiating an indoor residual insecticide spraying campaign supporting approximately 40,000 homes, shelters, and camps. Merlin will launch the campaign on October 1, spraying in the Samuel K. Doe (SKD) stadium and Harbel areas.

**Cholera.** According to the DART, 2,352 cases of cholera were reported during the week of September 15, of which 170 were from Buchanan, 21 from Bong, and the remaining from the greater Monrovia area.

**Measles.** With USAID/OFDA support, Save the Children Fund-UK (SCF-UK) and IRC began a mass measles immunization campaign for Monrovia-area IDP settlements and the Monrovia community on September 10. Through the campaign, 70,821 children aged between 6 months and 15 years have been immunized to date. Vitamin A is administered with immunization to children under the age of five. Vitamin A supplementation has been administered to 23,123 children so far. A total of 173 supervisors, vaccinators, registrars, and mobilizers are working on the campaign, which will continue through October 3.

In Buchanan, 20,060 children between six months and 15 years of age have been vaccinated against measles to date,

and approximately 8,000 children under the age of 5 have received Vitamin A supplementation.

**Health Referral System.** Merlin, SCF-UK, and the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) organizations are planning a referral system to link all the medical facilities in Monrovia. To date, 11 ambulances have been identified to support the system. Additionally, a communication system with a dedicated emergency frequency is in the development stage, along with a 911 system accessible via cell phone.

### **WATER AND SANITATION**

**White Plains Pumping Station.** The White Plains facility supplies 1.4 million gallons of water per day through a 16-inch pipeline. The facility has enough alum, lime, and chlorine to last until July 2004 at the current rate of production. Expansion of production hours or restarting the 36-inch system is limited primarily by the availability of fuel, chemicals, and wages for the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation employees. Currently the facility uses approximately 150 gallons of fuel every 8 hours to run the 16-inch line. It is anticipated that the 36-inch line would require an additional 1,000 gallons of fuel per day. Trucking of water continues from the gantries to IDP shelters and other distribution facilities throughout the greater Monrovia area.

**Potential Sites for Solid Waste.** A solid waste team comprised of the GOL, U.N., and NGO representatives has identified four potential sites for a new emergency solid waste site to replace the current site at Framah, which is not environmentally sound and is nearing capacity. The Monrovia City Corporation in partnership with Oxfam and UNICEF removed 995 cubic meters of waste during the week of September 21 from IDP sites and the surrounding greater Monrovia area.

### **FOOD**

**WFP and USAID/FFP operations.** WFP began food distributions in several areas of Monrovia on August 15. USAID Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) reported that 15,700 metric tons (MTs) of USAID/FFP food commodities arrived 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.

WFP reports that the Motor Vessel (MV) SKYBIRD completed commodity discharge on September 26 delivering a total of 2,527 metric tons (MTs) of various commodities. On September 27, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) completed distribution of a one-month ration of cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil to 33,607 displaced persons in the Buchanan area.

On September 29, WFP began food distributions to IDPs in Kakata, Bensonville, and Ricks Institute. Beneficiaries will receive a one-month ration of cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil. WFP estimates that this distribution will total 517 MTs and reach a total of 34,451 beneficiaries. Another distribution program started in Salala camp in Bong County on September 25. Food distributions continue in the Totota camp and are expected to be completed on September 30.

On September 29, WFP, in conjunction with World Vision (WV) and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA), completed distributions to Wilson Corner and Jah Tondo IDP camps in Montserrado. In Jah Tondo, 226 MTs of assorted food commodities were delivered to 15,081 people, and 471 MTs were delivered to 31,350 people in Wilson Corner. WFP reports that its food pipeline is sufficient through March 2004.

## USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

### *Non-food Assistance.*

In FY 2003, 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 \$580,000 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 provided more than \$1 million to CRS for food distribution to non-registered IDPs with World Vision and Africare. In support of a measles campaign in Monrovia and IDP Health and Protection, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$739,000 to SCF-UK.

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 Water and Sanitation Officer, a USAID/FFP Officer, a USAID Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) Abuse Prevention Officer, a State Department Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) Refugee Officer.

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 benefited approximately 15,000 people. In addition, the airlift included a WHO emergency health kit that had basic medical essentials for 30,000 people for one month. The total value of the commodities, including transport, was \$224,352.

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

### *Emergency Food Assistance.*

In FY 2003 USAID/FFP provided a total of 24,480 MTs of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at \$16.7 million, to Liberia. The commodities provided by USAID/FFP include a combination of cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil, and corn-soy 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 and CRS.

### *Refugee Assistance.*

State/PRM has provided support for Liberian refugees since 1989 and for Sierra Leonean refugees in Liberia since 1991. In FY 2003, State/PRM has provided nearly \$13 million in response to the Liberia crisis. This funding includes \$4.3 million to UNHCR for assistance to refugees in and from 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, \$251,177 to IRC to prevent sexual and gender-based violence, \$540,000 to ACF for therapeutic feeding campaigns, \$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 (\$54.6 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</b>				
<b>USAID Total</b> .....				<b>\$22,553,886</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA</b> .....				<b>\$5,853,886</b>
	ACF	Nutrition	Monrovia	\$517,773
	Merlin	Health and Water/Sanitation	Monrovia, Harbel	\$751,011
	IRC	Water/Sanitation and non-food items	Monrovia	\$580,281
	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
	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>\$16,700,000</b>
	WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Food Assistance – 24,480 MTs	Country-wide	\$16,700,000
<b>STATE/PRM<sup>∞</sup></b> .....				<b>\$12,950,896</b>
	UNHCR	Annual Refugee Operations	Country-wide	\$4,300,000
	WFP	WFP Support	Country-wide	\$826,164
	UNICEF	Water/Sanitation	Country-wide	\$1,597,500
	IRC	Sexual and Gender Based Violence	Country-wide	\$251,177
	ACF	Therapeutic Feeding Campaign	Montserrado County	\$540,000
	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</b> .....				<b>\$35,504,782</b>

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

\*\* Included in this figure is \$113,208 provided by USAID’s Bureau for Global Health.

<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  
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**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).