



**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 #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

October 8, 2003

Note: This Situation Report updates USAID/OFDA Liberia Situation Report #1, FY 2004, dated October 1, 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	Total: 500,000 in Liberia 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 and FY 2004 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Liberia (To Date)..... \$5,853,886
Total FY 2003 and FY 2004 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Liberia (To Date)..... \$46,664,782

CURRENT SITUATION

(New information is in blue.)

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. **The agreement provided for the creation of 21 ministries in the government and gave five each to LURD, MODEL, and the GOL. The remaining six ministries were allocated to unarmed political parties. On October 7, LURD chairman Sekou Conneh announced that the allocation of positions**

must be better resolved before the interim government can take office.

Renewed fighting in Monrovia. On October 1, fighting erupted between LURD and GOL forces in the Red Lights suburb and the Freeport of Monrovia area. At least four people were killed. The unrest also led to the looting of local and international facilities, including several United Nations (U.N.) and non-governmental organization (NGO) vehicles. The clashes were triggered by Conneh’s arrival in Monrovia for a meeting with President Blah.

Arrival of ECOWAS mediators. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) mediating team arrived in Liberia October 4-5 and will remain until October 17.

The team is led by General Abdulsalami Abubakar, the mediator of the August 17 peace agreement.

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. ECOMIL 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 U.N. Security Council 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. The ECOMIL troops were transferred to UNMIL authority on October 1. The force is expected to reach its full strength of 15,000 troops within three months. On October 7, during a meeting with UNMIL, LURD requested that UNMIL deploy peacekeepers in LURD territories after the interim government takes office on October 14.

Meeting of the Joint Monitoring Commission (JMC). On October 6, representatives from the GOL, MODEL, LURD, UNMIL, and ECOWAS gathered for a meeting of the JMC. The JMC announced that UNMIL forces would make central Monrovia, Bushrod Island, and Paynesville a weapons-free zone by October 9. UNMIL Force Commander Lt. General Daniel I. Opande stated that UNMIL would conduct a systematic cordon and search program to ensure complete compliance with the weapons-free zone.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

Relocation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Monrovia schools 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.

The Liberia Refugee, Repatriation, and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) estimates that approximately 5,000 IDPs continue to occupy six schools in Monrovia. The LRRRC, the U.N., and several NGOs have begun planning the transfer of approximately 3,500 IDPs from Monrovia schools to a closed agricultural college, Fendell University, located on the outskirts of Monrovia. Transportation of the first 480 IDPs to the Fendell site is tentatively scheduled to begin October 7 and will continue daily throughout the week. Participating agencies estimate that 500 people will

be relocated per day. The goal of this relocation operation is to vacate five of the six Monrovia schools where IDPs are still located.

Relocation of IDPs from spontaneous settlements. According to the USAID/Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), efforts to move IDPs from Monrovia to longer-term camps outside the city continue. A census of spontaneous IDP settlements in Monrovia, conducted by UNHCR and the LRRRC, found that 64 of 164 shelters are still occupied by IDPs.

According to the survey, the 64 shelter sites contained approximately 151,000 IDPs, including 31,000 who had fled from the Montserrado County camps during the summer of 2003. The DART noted that in addition to these totals, it is believed that between 20,000 and 25,000 IDPs remain uncounted in the survey because they live at sites not included in the survey. Including these numbers in the survey total, there are approximately 170,000 IDPs living at unapproved shelter sites who are candidates for relocation to longer-term IDP camps.

Expansion of humanitarian corridors. On September 30, an inter-agency assessment mission to the towns of Phebe and Gbarnga, found villages along the road to these towns completely destroyed and uninhabited. The assessment team reported that an estimated 6,000 IDPs reside in Phebe. On September 24-26, an interagency mission conducted an assessment of security and humanitarian conditions in Zwedru. The mission reported that the security situation appeared to be fairly normal, but the refugee camps in Zwedru and neighboring Toe Town had been destroyed and the occupants had fled.

SECURITY

Security incidents at Montserrado County IDP camps. According to the DART, renewed fighting in Monrovia on October 1 and 2 affected the Montserrado County IDP camps on the outskirts of Monrovia. According to a U.N. protection official, at least four of the seven Montserrado County IDP camps suffered looting. Rape by LURD forces allegedly occurred in at least one camp on the night of October 1.

Security advisories. On October 6, humanitarian organizations were advised to exercise extreme caution in operating outside of Monrovia in light of the induction of the interim government on October 14. In response, some NGOs are considering suspending operations in Monrovia during that period.

DISARMAMENT AND DEMOBILIZATION

Establishment of a commission. According to the DART, humanitarian organizations are meeting for weekly meetings of the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Working Group. A concept paper establishing the National

Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration Program (NDDRRP) has specified that a Commission for DDDR will be set-up no later than October 31, and the U.N. is expected to be a member.

The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) announced on October 1 that it will provide food assistance for one month to the demobilized forces during reintegration. During that time, food rations will be provided for their family members living in the camps. One more month of food assistance will be provided to the former soldiers when they depart the demobilization program. The program is planned to benefit an estimated 60,000 former combatants and their family members.

COORDINATION ACTIVITIES

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

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cholera. According to the DART, 2,117 cases of cholera were reported during the week of September 22. WHO reports that 17,561 cases of cholera have been registered since the onset of the epidemic in June to September 21. The most affected places in Monrovia remain Paynesville, Sinkor, and particularly central Monrovia. Humanitarian agencies agreed that in addition to the well chlorination campaign, other activities need to be undertaken to address the cholera situation in greater Monrovia. Suggested activities include health education, home chlorination, and latrine coverage.

Measles. With USAID/OFDA support, Save the Children Fund-UK (SCF-UK) and International Rescue Committee (IRC) began a mass measles immunization campaign for Monrovia-area IDP settlements and the Monrovia community on September 10. To date, SCF-UK and IRC have completed 198,890 measles immunizations under the mass measles campaign. The pace of the program slowed during the week of September 29 due to the limited availability of vaccines. UNICEF expects 650,000 doses of measles vaccine and 241,000 doses of diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus (DPT) vaccine to arrive on October 8.

NUTRITION

Feeding centers. According to UNICEF, there are seven therapeutic feeding centers (TFCs) and twelve supplemental feeding centers (SFCs) operating in the greater Monrovia area. Outside of Monrovia, five TFCs and five SFCs are operating in accessible areas.

Kwashiorkor. According to Médecins Sans Frontières-Holland (MSF-H), approximately 20-25 additional children arrive daily to their therapeutic feeding center in Buchanan. Further, 80% of these children have kwashiorkor, a form of severe acute malnutrition associated with the lack of nutrients in the diet. Kwashiorkor is associated with much lower recovery rates.

REFUGEES

Liberian refugees in Guinea. On September 30, UNHCR announced that approximately 1,300 Liberian refugees from Lofa County had been registered to date in the Guinean border areas of Bignamou and Baala. According to UNHCR, since September 15, more than 6,000 Liberians have fled to Guinea due to fighting between LURD and GOL forces.

Repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees. According to the DART, the breakdown of the Motor Vessel (MV) Overbeck while transporting refugees from the Freeport of Monrovia to Freetown in Sierra Leone in later August has made refugees reluctant to step forward and volunteer for repatriation. Since February 2003, approximately 6,000 Sierra Leonean refugees have been repatriated.

WATER AND SANITATION

Well chlorination. The fifth round of the well chlorination campaign has been completed with 5,528 wells chlorinated in this round. The health, water and sanitation, and chlorination committees are now focusing on follow-up programs to include home chlorination and health promotion.

FOOD

WFP and USAID/FFP operations. WFP began food distributions in 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. Additional commodities are due to arrive in the region in November and December. 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 October 1, WFP had provided food assistance totaling 2,599 MTs to 167,649 beneficiaries in camps in Montserrado, Bong and Grand Bassa Counties. WFP began distributions at two Montserrado camps of 110 MTs to 6,590 beneficiaries in Plumkor and 142 MTs to 9,432 beneficiaries

in Perry Town. WFP expects to finalize distributions in the Montserrado camps by October 11.

Food distributions in Harbel. On October 6, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) began distributing 81 MTs of assorted food commodities to 4,846 beneficiaries in Unification Town, one of five camps in Harbel. In the Multilateral camp, also in Harbel, CRS began distributing 49 MTs of assorted food commodities to 3,200 beneficiaries on October 7.

Insecurity affecting food distributions. Due to renewed fighting in Monrovia on October 1 and 2, WFP suspended all food distributions until October 6. WFP resumed distributions in Monrovia on October 6 and in Salala, Kakata, and Totota on October 7.

Prices of commodities. According to the DART, Action Against Hunger (ACF) reported that as of October 2, the price of a standard food basket for a family of seven has decreased from 500 Liberian Dollars (LD) at the peak of the fighting to 250 LD. However, the current price is still an increase of 40 percent over the price before this summer. Rice and gasoline prices have returned to near normal levels but local products remain at two to four times the normal levels.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Non-food assistance. In FY 2003, USAID/OFDA obligated more than \$5.8 million to support humanitarian needs in Liberia. USAID/OFDA provided more than \$517,000 to ACF in support of emergency nutrition needs in Monrovia and provided more than \$751,000 to Medical Emergency Relief International (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, and a USAID Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) Abuse Prevention 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. To date in FY 2004, USAID/FFP has provided an additional 19,330 MTs valued at approximately \$11.7 million. 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. The U.S. State Department Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has provided support for Liberian refugees since 1989 and for Sierra Leonean refugees in Liberia since 1991. In FY 2003, State/PRM provided more than \$12 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, \$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>
LIBERIA – FY 2003 AND FY 2004				
USAID Total.....				\$34,253,886
USAID/OFDA.....				\$5,853,886
	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
USAID/FFP.....				\$28,400,000
FY 2003	WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Food Assistance – 24,480 MTs	Country-wide	\$16,700,000
FY 2004	WFP***	P.L. 480 Title II Food Assistance – 19,330 MTs	Country-wide	\$11,700,000
STATE/PRM[∞].....				\$12,410,896
	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
	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
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA IN FY 2003 AND FY 2004.....				\$46,664,782

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

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

*** Estimated value of food assistance.

[∞] 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
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or 703-276-1914
 - InterAction: www.interaction.org → “Guide to Appropriate Giving”
- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.org.