



**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 #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

October 15, 2003

*Note: This Situation Report updates USAID/OFDA Liberia Situation Report #2, FY 2004, dated October 8, 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 and FY 2004 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Liberia (To Date).....\$9,024,431**  
**Total FY 2003 and FY 2004 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Liberia (To Date)..... \$49,835,327**

**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 a transitional 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 transitional 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.

**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.

**Inauguration of the transitional government.** On October 14, Gyude Bryant was inaugurated as the Chairman of the transitional government. Representatives from LURD and MODEL, including the Chairman of MODEL, Thomas Nimely, attended the ceremony. Bryant's first act as Chairman was to abolish government monopolies on imports of rice and petroleum products, as well as eliminate the requirement for exit visas. The transitional government will be in office until a new government is chosen in October 2005 elections.

**First meeting of the National Transitional Legislative Assembly (NTLA).** The nominated members of the new 76-member parliament met for the first time on October 13. The NTLA includes 18 representatives of political parties, seven representatives of civil society and special interest groups, and 12 representatives each from the GOL, LURD and MODEL. Representatives from each of Liberia's 15 counties did not attend the initial meeting. ECOWAS chief mediator General Abubakar rejected nominees from the counties after LURD and MODEL representatives objected because the county elections had been conducted in Monrovia, not in the counties themselves. General Abubakar has called for new elections in the counties.

**Peace-keeping troop deployments.** 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. As of October 11, approximately 800 Bangladeshi troops had arrived in Monrovia from Sierra Leone. UNMIL stated that these troops would be deployed to the port area on Bushrod Island.

**UNMIL movements.** According to the USAID/Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), UNMIL troops numbered 4,363 as of October 13. An advance team of the Jordanian military is in Liberia preparing for the deployment of a field hospital. UNMIL units from Guinea-Bissau have patrolled the road between Gbarnga and Ganta but have not yet established a permanent presence in the area. On October 10, UNMIL announced that Force Commander Lt. General Daniel I. Opande, had completed visits to Tubmanburg, Gbarnga, Ganta, and Buchanan. Opande met with representatives of LURD, MODEL, and the GOL to discuss their cooperation with the peace process.

**Weapons-free zone declared in Monrovia.** On October 11, at the fourth meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC), Opande announced that Monrovia, Bushrod Island, and Paynesville were a weapons-free zone. Opande thanked the GOL and LURD for their support in this endeavor and announced that UNMIL will now work to extend the weapons-free zone to refugee and IDP camps in

Montserrado County. The JMC was set up under the terms of the August peace agreement to monitor ceasefire violations, cantonment of forces, and cessation of all military activities.

**Remarks by the UN Special Representative to the Secretary General (SRSG).** On October 6, SRSG Jacque Klein addressed the humanitarian community in Liberia. Klein announced that after the deployment of the Bangladeshi battalion, Irish and Moroccan troops and a Dutch hospital ship would soon arrive. The SRSG stated that he would not sanction any exportation of timber, iron ore, or other goods until a transparent system was in place to track the money. Klein also announced a proposed budget of approximately \$280 – 290 million, including sector by sector projects from port rehabilitation to public works to agriculture. On October 8, Klein met with tribal chiefs from all 15 counties and requested their assistance with the peace process.

## 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.

**Relocation of IDPs to Fendell.** On October 9, the DART monitored the relocation of IDPs from schools to a closed agricultural college, Fendell University, located approximately 20 miles from Monrovia. By October 12, approximately 800 IDPs had been relocated. Participating agencies estimate that 500 people will be relocated per day through the week of October 13. According to the DART, some of the IDPs will not be relocated to Fendell because they are residents of Monrovia but the provision of assistance to this IDP population still needs to be determined.

USAID/OFDA-implementing partner Medical Emergency Relief International (Merlin) is operating a 24-hour health clinic at the site, and various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have begun to dig latrines and clean up the area. WFP is registering the arrivals and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) provided them with a one-month ration of assorted food commodities. UNMIL is responsible for security in the camp.

**Inter-agency mission to Totota.** On October 7, an inter-agency mission visited Totota and Kakata to examine the relocation of IDPs from spontaneous settlements and assess new population movements to Totota. In Totota, the mission found that displaced persons were still arriving from Sanoyie. The IDPs reported harassment by LURD forces in areas around Phelankoli/Gbartala. In the Maimu 2 camp, approximately 2,000 people had arrived from Sanoyie. In

Kakata, the mission reported that an estimated 3,600 IDPs are living in an administration building.

## **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 DDRR 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.

**Child Soldiers.** On October 9, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) requested that the GOL, LURD, and MODEL forces release and demobilize the 15,000 child soldiers estimated to be part of their forces. UNICEF announced that in some military factions up to 70 percent of combatants are children, and approximately 80 percent of these children have been involved in direct combat.

**MODEL and LURD disarmament.** On October 11, MODEL representatives announced that Thomas Nimely, Chairman of MODEL, would provide information on MODEL force structure, composition, and weapons to UNMIL by October 13. LURD Chairman, Sekou Conneh, announced that his group would begin voluntary disarmament immediately after the inauguration.

## **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), UNICEF, the U.N. Development Program (UNDP)/Country Team, and UNHCR and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

**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. According to the Liberian Ministry of Health (MOH), from June 2003 to date, approximately 250,000 measles immunizations have been administered in the greater Monrovia area (including IDP camps and shelters), Tubmanburg, and Buchanan. A shipment of 650,000 doses of measles vaccine has arrived in Monrovia, and an additional 1,000,000 doses are scheduled to arrive October 15.

**Malaria.** NGOs have reported shortages of anti-malarial medications at the National Drug Service (NDS). Since all drugs and immunizations used by NGOs are required to come through the NDS system to ensure that quality standards are met, the MOH and WHO are investigating the issue and are discouraging NGOs from establishing independent medication pipe-lines for Liberia.

## **PROTECTION**

**UNHCR assessment of the Montserrado County camps.** UNHCR conducted a rapid assessment of the seven IDP camps and three refugee camps in Montserrado County that were affected by the outbreak of violence on October 1 and 2. UNHCR's assessment concluded that combatants associated with LURD raided four IDP camps on October 1 and 2. Camps closest to the main highway were the most affected; more isolated camps farther from the highway remained untouched.

According to UNHCR, Jah Tondo camp, reportedly housing 15,000 IDPs, suffered the worst violence. The combatants also raided the camps of Wilson, Perrytown, and Plumkor. UNHCR advised that LURD fighters approached three Montserrado camps housing Sierra Leonean refugees on October 1 and 2, but UNMIL forces prevented the LURD forces from entering.

## **WATER AND SANITATION**

**Well chlorination.** The seventh round of the well chlorination campaign has been completed. Approximately 5,500 wells were chlorinated in the sixth round benefiting 400,000 people. The health, water and sanitation, and chlorination committees are now focusing on follow-up programs to include home chlorination and health promotion.

**White Plains Pumping Station.** USAID/OFDA will provide 5,000 gallons of diesel fuel to ensure that operations continue at the White Plains Pumping Station. This additional fuel will enable NGOs and commercial organizations to continue trucking water to IDP sites throughout Monrovia.

## 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 8, WFP has provided food assistance totaling nearly 3,700 MTs to 245,786 beneficiaries in camps in Montserrado County, Totota, Kakata, Salala, Harbel, Buchanan, and Bensonville. In addition, WFP provided 194 MTs of assorted food commodities to 12,693 refugees. Action Against Hunger (ACF) distributed WFP food to 42,859 beneficiaries through targeted blanket under 5 feeding programs. From October 8-13, WFP distributed 736 MTs of food assistance to 48,835 beneficiaries in camps in Salala, Montserrado County, Harbel, and Fendell.

The M.V. Dania arrived in the Freeport of Monrovia on October 11 with 2,270 MTs of mixed commodities from Guinea and Guinea-Bissau. As of October 13, WFP had discharged 314 MTs from the vessel.

## 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 the 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 Catholic Relief Services (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.

In FY 2004 to date, USAID/OFDA has committed more than \$3 million to support humanitarian activities in Liberia. USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1 million to Oxfam to

support water and sanitation and protection activities. USAID/OFDA provided more than \$400,000 to the IRC to support measles immunization programs. USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1,400,000 to Merlin for health, non-food items, and water and sanitation activities. In support of targeted feeding programs, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$265,000 to ACF.

USAID initially deployed a three-person DART, including a Team Leader, Program Officer, and Information Officer, on July 20. This team has since expanded to include a Water and Sanitation Officer, a USAID/FFP Officer, a USAID Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) Abuse Prevention Officer, and a Health Officer from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

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>
<b>LIBERIA – FY 2003 AND FY 2004</b>				
<b>USAID FY 2003 and FY 2004 .....</b>				<b>\$37,424,431</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA.....</b>				<b>\$9,024,431</b>
FY 2003	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
FY 2004	Oxfam	Water/Sanitation and protection of IDPs	Monrovia	\$1,058,193
	IRC	Measles	Monrovia	\$413,003
	Merlin	Water/Sanitation, health, and non-food items	Monrovia, Harbel	\$1,433,476
	ACF	Nutrition	Monrovia	\$265,873
<b>USAID/FFP.....</b>				<b>\$28,400,000</b>
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
<b>STATE/PRM<sup>∞</sup> .....</b>				<b>\$12,410,896</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
	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 AND FY 2004.....</b>				<b>\$49,835,327</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.

\*\*\* Estimated value of food assistance.

<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.



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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).