



**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 #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

October 22, 2003

Note: This Situation Report updates USAID/OFDA Liberia Situation Report #3, FY 2004, dated October 15, 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	100,000 Liberians in Guinea 62,000 Liberians in Sierra Leone 40,000 Liberians in Côte d'Ivoire 42,000 Liberians in Ghana 38,000 Ivoirians in Liberia 25,000 Sierra Leoneans in Liberia	UNHCR, October 2003 UNHCR, October 2003 UNHCR, October 2003 UNHCR, October 2003 UNHCR, September 2003 UNHCR, September 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.

Inauguration of the transitional government. On October 14, Gyude Bryant was inaugurated as Chairman of the transitional government. 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. **The NTLA elected George Dweh, LURD representative, as its speaker and Eddington Varmah, former Justice Minister under Taylor, as deputy speaker on October 20.**

Appointment of transitional government ministers. LURD, MODEL, and GOL have begun ministerial appointments. Among the appointments are Daniel Chea, the defense minister under Taylor, for the current defense minister position and MODEL's nomination of chairman Thomas Nimely for the position of foreign minister. The August peace 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.

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 United Nations (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. As of October 13, there are 4,363 UNMIL troops in Liberia.

Outbreaks of fighting. On October 15, a MODEL representative announced that fighting had erupted between MODEL forces acting independently and GOL forces in Grand Bassa County. On October 16, Medical Emergency Relief International (Merlin) reported being threatened by MODEL forces who had mistaken Merlin for GOL forces. After the MODEL forces realized their mistake, the forces released Merlin without any further incident. On October 16, Abou Moussa, the U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator for Liberia, expressed concern regarding reports of renewed fighting between LURD and GOL forces near Gbarnga.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs)

Relocation from Monrovia schools. The transfer of IDPs from schools in Monrovia to the Fendell and Montserrado County IDP camps was temporarily suspended on October 11, pending the registration of additional persons requesting transport. Relocation resumed on October 20 with the transfer of 74 IDPs to Fendell and 283 to the Montserrado camps. Approximately 5,500 IDPs reside at the Fendell site as of October 17.

Expansion of the Montserrado camps. According to the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), plans

are underway to expand five of the Montserrado camps to accommodate returning IDPs. The GOL office in charge of IDPs, the Liberia Refugee Repatriation Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), has negotiated additional acreage to extend all but Ricks and Wilson camps, but the sites have not yet been laid out.

Expansion of humanitarian corridors. USAID/OFDA implementing partner-Merlin has begun providing emergency medical treatment at three clinics in Zwedru, in Grand Gedeh County. Zwedru, with a population of 125,000, did not have a doctor prior to Merlin's arrival. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have announced plans to open offices in Zwedru in the near future.

Reunification of children and families. The ICRC has launched an initiative to reunite more than 700 Liberian children, found in other parts of West Africa, with their parents. The ICRC, in partnership with the Liberian Red Cross Society, will display posters with pictures of the children in public places in order to locate relatives of the children. The ICRC has reunited 185 children with their families in Monrovia since August.

U.N. mission to Voinjama. On October 18, a U.N. mission traveled to Voinjama, in Lofa County near the Guinean border. Voinjama is one of five planned U.N.-sub offices for humanitarian assistance in Liberia. The visit was the first by any relief agency since 1999. The mission found extensive destruction of housing and facilities, with only one operational health clinic and no functioning water pumps. The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) donated two emergency health kits to the clinic during the visit. The team concluded that health, water and sanitation, education, and agriculture were the top priorities for immediate support. Moussa announced on October 21 that the U.N. would return to Voinjama with a convoy carrying food and other relief items to the town by the end of October.

DART FIELD ASSESSMENTS

Assessment of Bong County IDP camps. On October 17, the DART participated in a U.N.-led mission to the Bong County IDP camps. The reported movement of GOL militia south from Zor Zor, and the accompanying movement of thousands of civilians who are traveling with the militia, has raised concerns that the Bong County camps will be unable to accommodate the large number of new arrivals.

According to the DART, the transit shelters are filled to capacity, and shelter residents are selling personal possessions to survive, since they have not been eligible for food distributions. The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) intends to change this policy and will begin food distributions to the transit shelter residents beginning in late October. Land is available for expansion in Maimu II and

Maimu III and this work has already begun. However, latrine coverage is inadequate in the Maimu and Yancy IDP camps, with 125 persons per latrine in Maimu I and 300 per latrine in Yancy. This is significantly higher than the 20 persons to one latrine recommended in the Sphere guidelines for humanitarian assistance.

DART assessment of Mount Barclay IDP camp. On October 18, the DART visited the Mount Barclay IDP site near Kakata. According to the DART, the site continues to grow slowly and is expected to accommodate approximately 13,000 people when it is fully inhabited. Currently, there is only one hand pump and one unprotected open well pump. The DART has recommended that additional wells and assistance to communities hosting large IDP populations be a priority.

Interagency assessment of Unification IDP site. After a recent visit to the Unification IDP site, the DART reported that services are improving in preparation for the arrival of the IDPs from Firestone. Merlin is constructing four transit shelters that will hold approximately 300 people each while families build their individual shelters. Merlin also operates a clinic on the site that will expand to support the relocated IDPs. According to the DART, the water supply is currently inadequate and there is only one functioning water pump; however, Action Against Hunger (ACF) is building several wells.

EDUCATION

Back-to-School program. On October 19, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) imported 3,200 educational kits valued at \$1.3 million in preparation for the November 3 start of the Back-to-School education program. School registration began on October 20 in Monrovia and the counties of Grand Bassa, Montserrado, Bong, Bomi, Cape Mount, and Margibi. The Back-to-School program aims to return 750,000 children to the classroom. Approximately 20,000 teachers will be supported to teach in 3,700 schools.

DISARMAMENT AND DEMOBILIZATION

LURD, MODEL, and GOL disarmament. On October 15, the chairmen of LURD and MODEL and former President Blah met with GOL Chairman Bryant and agreed to disarm. On October 16, Blah relinquished a large quantity of GOL weapons to UNMIL. UNMIL reported that hundreds of additional GOL weapons have also been turned in. UNMIL is registering the weapons at different locations in preparation for their transport to a safe location. The weapons will be destroyed by a specialist team.

Disarmament of Montserrado County camps. On October 16, UNMIL advised non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that in keeping with the Joint Military Commission agreement of October 11 to make the camps part of the weapons free zone, cordon and search operations will begin in the Montserrado camps in the near future.

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, WHO, UNICEF, the U.N. Development Program (UNDP)/Country Team, and UNHCR and the 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. Through the measles immunization campaign, 294,141 children have been vaccinated from June 23 to October 17.

Malaria. According to the DART, 4,402 clinical cases of malaria were reported during the week of September 29, of which 560 were confirmed.

Cholera. According to WHO, 2,064 suspected cholera cases were reported during the week of September 29. The highest number of cases (801) was in central Monrovia. The number of cases of bloody diarrhea increased for the fourth consecutive week, with 231 cases reported during the week of September 29. Approximately one third of the cases were children less than five years of age, and the highest number of cases was from Paynesville.

WATER AND SANITATION

Well chlorination. The seventh and eighth rounds of well chlorination were completed with 5,712 wells disinfected in the seventh round, and 5,872 wells disinfected in the eighth round. The mass well chlorination project is now complete. The chlorination project will phase into more community specific targeting high-risk areas, hygiene education, and community participation.

Solid waste removal. From September 26 to October 2, the Monrovia City Corporation Department of Waste, supported by UNICEF and Oxfam, removed 1,379 cubic meters (cm) of garbage, including 205 cm from IDP sites and 1,174 cm from the remaining greater Monrovia area.

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.

Food distributions. WFP distributed 4,498 metric tons of commodities to 291,362 IDPs between September 20 and October 8. In addition, 42,859 beneficiaries received food assistance through other specialized feeding programs, and 12,693 refugees received 194 MTs of food assistance.

Motor Vessel (M.V.) Dania. 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 16, WFP had discharged 1,027 MTs from the vessel.

Protests at Samuel K. Doe (SKD) stadium. On October 17, a group of women from the SKD stadium, an irregular IDP shelter in Monrovia, protested in front of UNMIL headquarters to request relief aid, particularly food assistance for stadium inhabitants. On October 18, representatives of the IDPs at SKD stadium met with WFP and UNHCR, and WFP agreed to facilitate a visit to Fendell camp by IDP representatives October 20, so the IDPs can decide whether to relocate.

Temporary suspension of food distributions beyond Monrovia. On October 15, WFP announced that they would temporarily stop food distributions outside of Monrovia due to continuing insecurity in the interior. WFP stated that they planned to resume food distribution in Totota, Salala, and Kakata during the week of October 27.

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 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 USAID/FFP Officer, a State Department Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) Refugee 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. 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 FY 2003 and FY 2004				\$37,424,431
USAID/OFDA.....				\$9,024,431
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
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
FY 2003	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.....				\$49,835,327

* 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.



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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.