



**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 #7, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

November 20, 2003

Note: The last USAID/OFDA Liberia Situation Report was, dated November 5, 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. The main opposition group, Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), which began fighting 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. Taylor resigned on August 11, 2003. On August 17, GOL, LURD, and MODEL representatives signed a peace agreement in Accra, Ghana, 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 National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL), which will remain in office until the election of a new government in October 2005. On October 1, the United Nations Mission to Liberia (UNMIL) was established. UNMIL will be comprised of 15,000 troops by early 2004 and will also contain approximately 1,115 police officers. Despite these positive developments, years of conflict have resulted in widespread human suffering in Liberia and the longstanding internal displacement of approximately 500,000 of the country's three million inhabitants.

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
Refugees	140,000 Liberians in Guinea 66,000 Liberians in Sierra Leone 63,000 Liberians in Côte d'Ivoire 42,000 Liberians in Ghana 38,000 Ivorians in Liberia 14,000 Sierra Leoneans in Liberia	U.N. OCHA and UNHCR, October/November 2003

Total FY 2004 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Liberia (To Date).....\$4,010,821

Total FY 2004 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Liberia (To Date).....\$15,710,821

CURRENT SITUATION

Arrival of U.N. Police Force. According to a statement by the Commissioner of the U.N. International Police Unit on November 14, the U.N. Police Force for Liberia will eventually be composed of up to 1,115 police officers from between 26 and 40 countries. These unarmed "peace officers" will identify, train, and support the new Liberian police force.

Status of UNMIL Deployment. As of November 11, there were approximately 4,600 UNMIL troops in Liberia. In addition, there are 36 military observers in country.

Fighting and Displacement in Nimba County. Clashes in early November between former GOL militia and MODEL in Nimba County caused the displacement of approximately 10,000 people. The newly displaced sought refuge in Sagleipie, 285 kilometers (km) northeast of Monrovia. A U.N. assessment mission to Sagleipie on November 10 reported that the internally displaced persons (IDPs) needed food, shelter, and medicines. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (U.N. OCHA), approximately 1,000 new IDPs have arrived in Sagleipie since November 11, bringing the total IDP population in the town to 7,000.

A follow-up inter-agency mission on November 14 delivered a two-week food ration to 2,550 IDPs in Loyee (11 km south

of Sagleipie) and noted population movements on the Sagleipie-Loyee road. Due to time constraints, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) could not complete the distribution and gave the remainder to local IDP leadership for later distribution. A planned non-food item (NFI) distribution was not undertaken due to concerns over possible looting. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) plans to distribute the NFIs on November 22.

On November 15, the non-governmental organization (NGO) Equip Liberia reported the presence of approximately 20,000 IDPs in and around Bahn, northwest of Sagleipie. Civilians interviewed by Equip Liberia reported that fighting was taking place approximately 30 km southeast of Bahn.

Unrest in Buchanan. On November 11, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) reported an outbreak of unrest and looting by MODEL forces. Medical Emergency Relief International (Merlin) and other NGOs confirmed the report, although reasons for the unrest varied. As a result of the violence, humanitarian operations were suspended for 24 hours, but Merlin reported on November 16 that the situation had calmed. According to the Special Representative to the Secretary General, this unrest may delay plans for downgrading the security level in Buchanan from Phase V to Phase IV.

Inter-Agency Assessment of Gbarnga-Zorzor. Between November 8 and 9, U.N. OCHA led an inter-agency assessment to Gbarnga and Zorzor. The assessment team reported the road to be in good condition, but all schools, churches, and houses have been destroyed. According to the LURD commander, the population of Zorzor is approximately 640. The assessment team noted that the health situation in Zorzor is precarious.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs)

Relocation of IDPs. The relocation of IDPs from the Firestone Plantation continues, according to U.N. OCHA, and 700 people were moved to Unification Town on November 6 and 7. The next relocation from Firestone to Unification Town will take place on November 24, according to the American Refugee Committee (ARC). The next irregular shelter within Firestone to be targeted will be Multilateral. A total of 10,000 IDPs from five irregular shelters in Harbel are expected to move to Unification Town, according to WFP. However, according to ARC, pressure from Firestone management to move all the IDPs off the estate has lessened somewhat following an agreement between Firestone and Liberia Refugee, Repatriation, and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) that allows a two-week period to expand the capacity of Unification Town.

According to U.N. OCHA, the relocation of IDPs from irregular shelters in Monrovia to Fendell and Montserrado Camps has been put on hold until LRRRC assesses the location and population of the remaining irregular shelters.

LRRRC has identified six irregular shelters as official IDP camps: Fendell, Unification Town, Sinje 3, Mount Barclay, New Land, and Soul Clinic.

The provision of humanitarian services to IDPs in Totota, Bong County is increasing. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) plans to deliver approximately 200,000 liters of water to Maimu I, II, and III, double the amount previously supplied to the camps. Action Against Hunger (ACF) also plans to increase water and sanitation facilities as these camps expand. In health, Save the Children-United Kingdom (SCF) has begun constructing a reproductive health facility. The camps are also expanding to accommodate IDPs currently living in the transit shelters. According to U.N. OCHA, 510 IDP families living in seven schools in the Totota-Salala area are moving into makeshift shelters, with plastic sheeting provided by UNHCR. There are 110 families remaining in the schools.

REFUGEES

Repatriation to Sierra Leone. According to UNHCR, on November 12, thirteen Sierra Leonean refugees were repatriated on a WFP flight. Pre-registration for repatriation is ongoing in the camps, and the next flight was scheduled for November 17.

EDUCATION

Back-to-School Program. On November 3, government schools in Bombi, Bong, Grand Bassa, Margibi, Montserrado, and Grand Cape Mount Counties reopened for the first time in five months as the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) launched the "Back-to-School" program. To date, approximately 3,200 teachers have undergone training for the use of the School-in-a-Box kits.

The U.S. Government (USG) is contributing to the Back-to-School program in a number of ways through USAID and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM). State/PRM's contribution of \$1.6 million to UNICEF for water and sanitation activities is being used to upgrade water supply and sanitation installations in schools throughout accessible areas of the country. USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has provided approximately 4,600 metric tons (MT) or 55 percent of food commodities needed for the emergency school feeding program. USAID/OFDA has provided funds to purchase cooking pots, ladles, plates, and spoons for preparing and serving food to 25,000 children in 100 schools.

DISARMAMENT AND DEMOBILIZATION

Campaign to Begin in December. On November 4, U.N. officials announced that UNMIL will begin the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) of Liberia's estimated 38,000 combatants in December with the opening of the first cantonment center for former GOL troops on the outskirts of Monrovia on December 7. UNMIL plans to open a separate cantonment center for LURD a few days later in Tubmanburg and a third center for MODEL in Buchanan.

At these cantonment sites, up to 1,000 fighters at a time will surrender their weapons and undergo a three-week screening process. The ex-combatants will receive an initial payment of \$150 upon the surrender of weapons, followed by a \$150 grant. The former combatants will then be passed on to other U.N. agencies, which will supervise their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. UNMIL plans to open up to 10 cantonment sites by April 2004.

The program is estimated to cost approximately \$50 million, or \$1,310 per combatant. A National Commission on Demobilization, Disarmament, and Reintegration composed of representatives of the three warring parties in Liberia, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the African Union has been established to oversee the program. Although the disarmament program has not yet formally begun, UNMIL has already collected 2,842 weapons, mainly from GOL forces.

WFP has identified implementing partners to provide food assistance to cantoned ex-combatants and dependants. CRS will operate in Buchanan, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in Tubmanburg, and World Vision International (WVI) in Schieffelin.

DDR in Buchanan. On November 16, UNMIL, the U.N. Development Program (UNDP), and WFP traveled to Buchanan to assess the ongoing, spontaneous disarmament of former GOL militia. According to the high command of the Mali contingent of UNMIL, based in Buchanan, the spontaneous disarmament began on November 14, following a visit by the UNMIL force commander, General Opande. Since November 14, 150 former militia have released weapons to UNMIL. Following the visit on November 16, the U.N. assessment team recommended that food distributions begin as soon as possible to the 150 disarmed militia and dependants.

HEALTH

Cholera. According to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), the number of confirmed cholera cases has decreased since week 41 (October 6 to 12), but remained stable during weeks 43 and 44 (October 20 and November 2). One cholera-associated death was reported in week 44.

Measles. UNICEF, WHO, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, SCF, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), and Merlin completed a week-long measles immunization campaign on November 8. The total number of children between six months of 14 years immunized in Liberia is currently 440,523, according to U.N. OCHA. SCF suspended the immunization campaign in Margibi County on November 14 due to the delayed arrival of needed Vitamin A supplies, which, according to UNICEF, is expected to arrive on November 19.

FOOD

Food Distributions. WFP currently provides food to 385,000 people in Liberia, including rations for malnourished children in the capital. In November, WFP plans to distribute 6,000 MT of food to beneficiaries in Liberia. As the country becomes more accessible with the expanded deployment of UNMIL, WFP predicts that approximately 70,000 MT of food will be required to feed 430,000 beneficiaries over the next year.

Between November 5 and 11, WFP distributed 7.2 MT of food commodities to 481 IDPs in Fendell, 160 MT to 10,668 beneficiaries in Ricks, and 30.2 MT to 1,951 IDPs in VOA camp.

On November 18, WFP, through implementing partner Lutheran World Federation (LWF) began food distribution in the Totota IDP camps. WFP plans to provide 1,052 MT of assorted commodities to 63,749 IDPs in four camps. Beneficiaries will receive a one-month ration.

On November 10, WFP began food distributions in Sawegbeh. On November 13, WFP reported that 143 MT of food commodities had been distributed to 9,443 beneficiaries in Sawegbeh.

WFP began distributing food to IDPs in irregular shelters in Monrovia on November 13. Following a decision by the Committee on Food Aid, WFP will provide a one-time, one-month ration to IDPs living in the 12 irregular shelters identified by LRRRC. On November 13, WFP distributed 51 MT of food to 3,369 beneficiaries in the Samuel K. Doe (SKD) Stadium. On November 19, WFP reported that registration was completed in all 12 irregular shelters and 120,633 IDP have been identified to receive food assistance.

As WFP's implementing partner in Buchanan, CRS is in the process of finalizing IDP population figures in city shelters. CRS estimates that out of the 32,000 IDPs targeted for food assistance in September, 10,000 remain in three shelters. WFP also plans to provide food assistance to 13 orphanages and 4 institutions for the elderly and disabled in Buchanan.

WFP Population Verification Exercises. On October 28, WFP launched an extensive verification exercise in the IDP camps of Montserrado and Bong Counties. In September, camp leaders and managers in the Montserrado camps were trained to conduct basic emergency registrations and provided numbers of IDPs in their respective camps. On November 13, WFP released the final caseload numbers for the Montserrado IDP camps: 104,899. These IDPs will be assisted during WFP's ongoing distribution, and the total population of verified IDPs is 13,064 less than were registered in September.

Arrival of Commodities. On November 8, the Motor Vessel (M.V.) Agnete Maersk arrived in the Freeport of Monrovia

with 99.2 MT of high energy biscuits. On November 15, the M.V. Miss River berthed in Monrovia carrying 1,345 MT of bulgur wheat. Discharge of the wheat was completed on November 18. WFP expects an additional 11,000 MT of assorted food commodities to arrive in the Freeport within the next month. In order to secure storage facilities for the commodities, WFP is in negotiations with the National Port Authorities.

Emergency School Feeding (ESF). According to U.N. OCHA, the first phase of WFP's ESF will target children in Montserrado and Margibi Counties. With the expanded deployment of UNMIL, WFP hopes to reach 2,100 schools (350,000 children) throughout Liberia during the current school year. In addition, WFP has agreed to provide a one-time, three-month take-home ration for teachers in Liberia.

COORDINATION

A new Humanitarian Operations Center (HOC) was established on November 19 in Monrovia. The HOC will comprise the following coordination cells: logistics, security, humanitarian information, and civil-military relations.

Local NGOs have formed an umbrella organization called the Liberia NGO Network. The organization, which will be based in Monrovia with regional hubs, has developed a terms of reference and plans to elect leaders on November 21.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Non-food Assistance. In FY 2003, USAID/OFDA obligated more than \$5.5 million to support humanitarian needs in Liberia. In FY 2004, USAID/OFDA has committed approximately \$4 million to support humanitarian activities in Liberia. USAID/OFDA obligated more than \$1 million to Oxfam to support water and sanitation and protection activities. USAID/OFDA approved more than \$400,000 to the IRC to support measles immunization programs. USAID/OFDA obligated 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 obligated more than \$265,000 to ACF. In support of Unification Camp, USAID/OFDA approved more than \$455,000 to the ARC for camp management and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) activities.

From August through the end of October, a USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) was based in Monrovia to assess humanitarian needs and coordinate the provision of USG-funded assistance to vulnerable populations in accessible areas of Liberia. The DART has been replaced by a USAID/DCHA humanitarian team consisting of a full-time USAID/OFDA Field Officer based in Monrovia, and regular regional support from the USAID/Food for Peace (FFP) Officer and USAID/OFDA Program Officer, both based in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Emergency Food Assistance. In FY 2003 USAID/FFP provided a total of 24,480 MT 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 MT valued at approximately \$11.7 million. The commodities provided by USAID/FFP include a combination of cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil, and corn-soya blend (CSB) 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 the International Committee of the Red Cross (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 SGBV, \$298,000 to UNDP and the U.N. Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD) in support of 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 2004				
USAID/OFDA FY2004.....				\$4,010,821
	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
	ARC	IDP camp management	Margibi County	\$445,076
	U.N. OCHA	Humanitarian Information Center	Country-wide	\$310,000
	OFDA	Administrative and Program Support	Country-wide	\$85,200
USAID/FFP.....				\$11,700,000
	WFP***	P.L. 480 Title II Food Assistance – 19,330 MT	Country-wide	\$11,700,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA IN FY 2003 AND FY 2004.....				\$15,710,821

* 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.