



**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 #14, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

August 27, 2004

Note: The last situation report was dated May 21, 2004.

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 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, grew from a northern-based insurgent movement to a force that controlled the majority of the country in 2003. 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. Taylor resigned on August 11, 2003 and, 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 is at full strength, with 15,000 peacekeeping troops deployed throughout Liberia. The U.N. has deemed the entire country to be Phase IV in terms of security, allowing full humanitarian access. Despite these developments, years of conflict have resulted in widespread human suffering in Liberia, the longstanding internal displacement of approximately 500,000 of the country’s three million inhabitants, and the flight of hundreds of thousands refugees to neighboring countries. The ongoing return of Liberian refugees and the forecasted return of the internally displaced are creating new challenges for the humanitarian community.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Internally Displaced	300,000 (living in camps)	U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), August 2004
Refugees	350,000 – Liberians in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Ghana, and Côte d’Ivoire 4,000 – Sierra Leoneans in Liberia	UNHCR, August 2004

Total FY 2004 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Liberia (To Date).....\$23,544,003
Total FY 2004 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Liberia (To Date).....\$72,964,049

CURRENT SITUATION

General humanitarian situation. In early July, a soccer match was held in Samuel K. Doe (SKD) Stadium, which had functioned as an unofficial camp for 14,000 Liberians displaced during the height of the crisis in 2003. The last internally displaced persons (IDPs) left SKD in April. Despite this indication of a slow return to normalcy, the majority of Liberians continue to rely on humanitarian assistance to meet their most basic needs.

According to the Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary General, Jacques Klein, the slow progress in the reconstruction effort is due to funding shortfalls, despite donor pledges of \$540 million in February. UNMIL is at full

strength, and deployed throughout Liberia, but poor infrastructure, particularly roads and bridges, is hampering both the provision of security and humanitarian assistance to remote areas. According to Amnesty International, UNMIL has not deployed in strength to Sinoe, Grand Kru, River Gee, Maryland, or Lofa counties. These areas remain strongholds for LURD and MODEL forces, which continue to harass civilians and exploit resources such as rubber and timber.

On August 10, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that more than 1,000 former LURD combatants entrenched at the Guthrie rubber plantation, 30 km northwest of Monrovia, were refusing to disarm. LURD chairman, Sekou Damate Conneh has called the combatants renegade soldiers. Conneh’s position as the head of LURD remains a source of contention and

factionalism within the group. LURD's National Executive Committee is seeking to replace Conneh with the NTGL Justice Minister, Kabineh Jenneh. The division resulted in street violence in Monrovia on August 1 and 2.

Disarmament and demobilization campaign. From December 2003 to August 17, UNMIL disarmed 66,440 ex-combatants out of an expected 60,000. However, only 20,000 weapons have been turned in by the ex-combatants. U.N. sources indicate that some combatants are selling weapons to civilians, who then enter the disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation, and reintegration (DDRR) program to receive the \$300 resettlement grant. Other reasons for the discrepancy between the number of combatants and weapons include the possibility that weapons are being smuggled across the border with Cote d'Ivoire and the fact that many of the demobilized include women and children associated with combatants.

UNMIL has opened cantonment sites in Bong, Bomi, Montserrado, Nimba, and Grand Gedeh counties and two more sites are planned for Lofa and Maryland counties. Since December, 59,730 former combatants have completed the demobilization program in these cantonment sites.

According to Amnesty International, there were an estimated 21,000 child soldiers in Liberia at the height of the conflict. As of July 19, UNMIL had disarmed 4,838 children. More than two-thirds of these children have been reunited with their families, according to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF).

IDPs. One year after Charles Taylor departed Liberia for exile in Nigeria, thousands of IDPs have begun to spontaneously return home, according to OCHA. UNHCR plans to facilitate the return to 100,000 IDPs in 2004, but no official start date for facilitated returns has been set. IDPs will not be encouraged to return home until those areas are declared safe by the Security Assessment Committee for Resettlement (SACR), which is comprised of representatives from the NTGL, U.N., and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). SACR criteria for safe areas include general security (i.e., full UNMIL deployment and completion of a disarmament program in the region); restoration of state authority (e.g., reopening of schools, hospitals, and police stations); unhindered humanitarian access; and assessments of spontaneous returns.

Returning IDPs will be given an assistance package containing a four-month food ration, transportation home, and some emergency relief items. Surveys conducted in official IDP camps around Monrovia have identified 260,000 IDPs who qualify for the assistance package, according to OCHA.

Returnees. UNHCR estimates that approximately 340,000 Liberian refugees will return from neighboring countries. Of these, 34,000 are forecasted to return to Liberia by December through UNHCR's facilitated repatriation program, scheduled to begin in October. WFP plans to provide returnees with a four-month food ration. According to UNHCR, approximately 50,000 refugees spontaneously returned to Liberia in the past year.

Refugees. UNHCR extended facilitated repatriation for refugees in Liberia beyond the June 30 deadline, due to high refugee turnout. The last convoy of refugees departed Liberia at the end of July, transporting 300 refugees to Sierra Leone overland. Between February 2002 and July 2004, UNHCR repatriated approximately 30,000 Sierra Leonean refugees. As of August 6, OCHA reported that approximately 4,000 Sierra Leonean refugees have chosen to remain in Liberia, rather than return to Sierra Leone. UNHCR estimates that 50,000 refugees returned home to neighboring countries between August 2003 and July 2004.

Food. WFP anticipates a shortfall of 788 metric tons (MT) of cereals in September, and, according to WFP, the food pipeline may break in October without accelerated shipments. Since June, WFP has reduced rations to two-thirds for approximately 740,000 Liberians. In August, pulses were removed from the general ration, but corn-soya blend (CSB) was increased to help compensate. According to WFP, the commodity shortages are due to funding shortfalls. Approximately one sixth of Liberia's population is dependant on regular food assistance. However, the ongoing rains have made some roads impassable to food convoys, delaying the distribution to some beneficiaries during August. According to WFP, the potential October pipeline break is of serious concern as it would coincide with the start of facilitated IDP and refugee return and resettlement programs. WFP has committed to provide a two-month ration to returnees, in addition to continuing distributions in IDP camps.

Health. According to UNICEF, the nationwide measles immunization campaign reached more than 1.5 million children in Liberia between June 2003 and July 2004. UNICEF has begun training programs in preparation for extending the campaign to the last two counties, Sinoe and Gbarpolu, where 75,000 children under five years of age will be targeted for immunization. UNICEF also plans to immunize one million children against polio.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Non-food assistance. To date in FY 2004, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$23.5 million. USAID/OFDA supported health programs through implementing partners Concern, the International Medical Corps (IMC), the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Johns Hopkins University, Lutheran World Relief (LWR), Medical Emergency Relief International (Merlin), Northwest Medical Teams International, Oxfam-Great Britain (Oxfam-GB), and UNICEF. To support nutrition and agricultural programs, including the provision of seeds and tools, USAID/OFDA provided funding to Action Contre la Faim (ACF), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), IRC, and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). To address water and sanitation needs, USAID/OFDA funded ACF, the American Refugee Committee (ARC), Christian Children's Fund (CCF), Concern, IRC, Merlin, Oxfam-GB, and UNICEF. To support camp management activities, the provision of emergency relief supplies, IDP protection, and sexual and gender-based violence programs, USAID/OFDA provided funding to ARC,

IRC, Merlin, Oxfam-GB, and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). USAID/OFDA also funded multiple U.N. agencies to support humanitarian coordination, logistics, and programs in health and water and sanitation.

Emergency food assistance. To date in FY 2004, USAID/FFP has provided an additional 33,860 MT valued at more than \$21.5 million. The commodities provided by USAID/FFP include a combination of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil, and 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. In FY 2004, State/PRM has committed more than \$27.8 million in humanitarian assistance for Liberia. Of this, more than \$12.2 million was provided to UNHCR for reintegration of Liberian returnees and IDPs; \$2.4 million was provided to UNICEF for water and sanitation and hygiene services at way stations for returning refugees and other conflict-affected populations; and \$600,000 was provided to the U.N. Development Program (UNDP) to support quick-impact rehabilitation programs. State/PRM has also provided \$1.0 million to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to fund the transportation of returnees and IDPs. To support programs in health, water and sanitation, family reunification, and emergency relief items distributions, State/PRM provided \$5.7 million to ICRC. State/PRM has also provided approximately \$6.0 million to NGO partners to support programs in health care, shelter, micro-enterprise development, gender-based violence prevention and response, and protection and integration for at-risk youth. This funding is in addition to unearmarked Africa-wide contributions to UNHCR (\$54 million) and ICRC (\$46.6 million).

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
ACF	Nutrition, Water/Sanitation	Monrovia, Montserrado, Grand Bassa, River Cess	\$1,386,873
ARC	IDP Camp Management, Protection, Water/Sanitation, Shelter	Margibi	\$878,149
CRS	Agriculture (Seeds and Tools)	Bong, Margibi, Sinoe, Nimba	\$2,008,126
CCF	Water/Sanitation	Grand Cape Mount, Bomi	\$679,880
Concern	Health, Water/Sanitation, Shelter	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
German Agro Action	Do No Harm Training	Countrywide	\$57,822
IMC	Health	Montserrado and Lofa	\$1,878,656
IRC	Health, Water/Sanitation, Nutrition, Camp Administration	Countrywide	\$2,785,386
Johns Hopkins	Malaria Control and Prevention	Countrywide	\$479,606
LWR	Health	Bong	\$108,348
Merlin	Water/Sanitation, Health, Shelter, Emergency Relief Supplies	Monrovia/Harbel, Grand Gedeh, Sinoe	\$2,694,946
Northwest Medical Teams International	Health	Montserrado/Margibi	\$1,231,282
Oxfam-GB	Health, Nutrition, Water/Sanitation, Protection	Monrovia, Montserrado, Bong	\$1,058,193
UMCOR	Camp Management	Montserrado	\$191,336
UN FAO	Coordination and Support	Countrywide	\$450,000
UNICEF	Measles and Water/Sanitation	Countrywide	\$600,000
OCHA	HIC, Coordination/Support	Countrywide	\$1,310,000
OCHA	Emergency Rapid Response Fund	Countrywide	\$2,622,700
UN WFP	Nutrition, Joint Logistics Center	Countrywide	\$478,380
USAID/OFDA	Program Support	Countrywide	\$644,350
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$23,544,003
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
CRS	P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance – 2,080 MT	Countrywide	\$980,700
WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance – 31,780 MT	Countrywide	\$20,550,800
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$21,531,500²
State/PRM ASSISTANCE			
UNHCR	Refugee/IDP Rehabilitation and Reintegration	Countrywide	\$12,200,000
ICRC	Health, Water/Sanitation, Family Reunification, Emergency Relief Supplies	Countrywide	\$5,700,000
UNICEF	Water and Sanitation, Hygiene	Countrywide	\$2,400,000
IOM	Transport for Refugees/IDPs	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNDP	Quick-Impact Rehabilitation Programs	Countrywide	\$600,000
CHF	Shelter for Returning Refugees	Lofa and Nimba	\$1,096,701
ARC	Micro-Enterprise Development	Bong/Margibi/Montserrado	\$499,997
ARC	GBV Response/Prevention	Monrovia/Montserrado	\$822,102
IMC	Maternal Child Health/Obstetrics	Lofa	\$800,000

IRC	GBV Response/Prevention , Healthcare, Water/Sanitation	Lofa/Montserrado	\$1,248,675
MENTOR	Anti-Malarial Programs	Countrywide	\$394,627
Save the Children	Reintegration of At-Risk Youth	Lofa/Nimba	\$626,567
World Relief	Micro-Enterprise Development	Monrovia/Montserrado	\$499,877
TOTAL State/PRM³			\$27,888,546
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA IN FY 2004			\$45,075,503
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA IN FY 2004			\$72,964,049

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of August 23, 2004.

² Estimated value of food assistance.

³ State/PRM funding is in addition to unearmarked Africa-wide contributions to UNHCR (\$54 million) and ICRC (\$46.6 million).



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