



**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 #10, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

January 9, 2004

Note: The last situation report was dated December 18, 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 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 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 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	UN OCHA and UNHCR, October/November 2003

Total FY 2004 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Liberia (To Date).....\$7,355,183
Total FY 2004 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Liberia (To Date).....\$22,855,183

CURRENT SITUATION

Disarmament and demobilization campaign. The United Nations (U.N.) plans to restart the Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration (DDRR) campaign on January 20. The DDRR program was suspended on December 18 in order to allow the construction of latrines, shelters, and health and administrative facilities at Camp Schieffelin. Chairman Bryant ordered the camp closed on January 1. UNMIL plans to open up to 10 cantonment sites by April 2004. As of December 23, UNMIL had collected 8,683 weapons and registered 13,195 ex-combatants, according to the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC).

MODEL General Boi Blehjeu Boi reported on January 2 that MODEL forces in Sinoe, Grand Bassa, Grand Gedeh, and Maryland counties had voluntarily disarmed. General Roland Duo of the former GOL forces reported on January 2 that GOL commanders had begun disarming militia in Nimba County. Duo also reported that the GOL militia had declared Sanniquellie, Ganta, Kahnlay, and Saglepie weapons-free zones and dismantled all GOL checkpoints in those towns. LURD has not yet begun voluntary disarmament.

Status of UNMIL deployment. As of January 7, there were 8,354 UNMIL troops, out of the expected 15,000, on the ground in Liberia, according to the UNJLC. LURD forces prevented Pakistani troops from deploying to Tubmanburg on

December 25. However, on December 27, the UNMIL troops were able to enter the area and establish a base at Kley Junction. On December 30, UNMIL moved into Tubmanburg from Kley Junction and is patrolling the main road from Monrovia. Following UNMIL's deployment to the area, all LURD checkpoints between Monrovia and Tubmanburg have been removed.

On December 31, 400 Bangladeshi troops deployed to Gbarnga and 250 to Buchanan. A contingent of 250 Ethiopian troops has deployed to Tapeta, according to UNMIL, and additional Ethiopian troops are scheduled to deploy to Zwedru in January.

Relocation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), between December 18 and 20 all remaining IDPs were relocated from the Samuel K. Doe (SKD) Stadium to various IDP camps in Montserrado and Margibi counties. A total of 3,799 IDPs relocated during the exercise to the following official camps: Mount Barclay (1,800), Blamasee (1,122), Ricks Institute (704), Seighbeh (101), Fendell Agricultural College (21), and Unification Town (31). According to UN OCHA, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) began food distributions to the relocated IDPs on December 22. The Internally Displaced Persons Committee (IDPC) has identified the following priority shelters to be targeted for IDP relocation in the first half of January: the Internal Affairs building (250), the Masonic Temple (2,000), Kendija School (1,000), the Old Executive Mansion (400), and the Oxygen Factory (275). The Liberia Refugee Repatriation Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) plans to visit and assess population numbers at all shelters.

The IDPC plans to conduct formal assessments of the spontaneous settlements and surrounding communities along the Monrovia-Kakata road. According to UN OCHA, these settlements, including Horton Town, Morris Town, and Massaquoi-Ta Town, have unverified population numbers ranging from 2,000 to 3,000 people.

Health situation. During the second week in December (week 50), the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) received reports of 844 cases of cholera, an increase from the 675 reported the previous week. No cholera-associated deaths were reported in week 50, but 40 clinics reported 145 new cases of bloody diarrhea (dysentery).

The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) has procured supplies necessary for maintaining the cold chain for an expanded program on immunization (EPI) in preparation for the implementation of a full-scale EPI campaign in 2004.

Ongoing food distributions. As of December 30, WFP was distributing food to 285,293 beneficiaries in formally recognized shelters. In January 2004, WFP plans to provide approximately 5,863 metric tons (MT) of assorted food

commodities to 416,199 beneficiaries through various programs. However, WFP expects that number to increase with the inclusion of beneficiaries in Interim Care Centers, which are part of the DDDR process.

Agriculture. According to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Association (FAO), the majority of Liberia's seed stocks have been destroyed following more than a decade of civil war. Recent FAO assessments indicate that 75 percent of Liberian farmers do not have access to rice seeds for the upcoming season. FAO has launched an appeal to provide 70,000 families with seeds for the next rice season that begins in April.

Back-to-School program. UNICEF and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delivered 15 school-in-a-box kits to Lofa County on December 24, according to UN OCHA. The kits will benefit 750 children in Voinjama and Kolahun.

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 U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) has provided funds to purchase cooking pots, ladles, plates, and spoons for preparing and serving food to 25,000 children in 100 schools.

Donors' Conference. A donors' conference for Liberia will be held in New York from February 5 to 6. The conference will be hosted by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell. NTGL sources have indicated that the country will seek between \$250 and \$500 million dollars from donors at the conference.

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 more than \$7.3 million. Of this total, USAID/OFDA obligated more than \$1 million to Oxfam to support water and sanitation and protection activities and more than \$400,000 to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to support measles immunization programs. USAID/OFDA obligated more than \$1.4 million to Medical Emergency Relief International (Merlin) for health, non-food items, shelter, and water and sanitation activities. In support of targeted feeding programs, USAID/OFDA obligated more than \$265,000 to Action Against Hunger (ACF). In support of Unification Camp, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$455,000 to the American Refugee Committee (ARC) for camp management and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) activities. USAID/OFDA

has provided approximately \$440,000 to Northwest Medical Teams International to undertake health activities in Liberia and \$500,000 for the International Medical Corps (IMC) to support health programs in Wilson Camp in Montserrado and Lofa County. USAID/OFDA has also committed \$600,000 for UNICEF to support water and sanitation and measles programs in Liberia and more than \$200,000 to WFP for nutrition activities. To support the coordination, logistics, and information activities of UN OCHA, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and WFP, USAID/OFDA has committed more than \$1.8 million in FY 2004.

Also in FY 2003, State/PRM has 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).

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 25,380 MT valued at approximately \$15.5 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 Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

Refugee assistance. State/PRM has provided support for Liberian refugees since 1989 and for Sierra Leonean refugees in Liberia since 1991. State/PRM provided more than \$12 million in funding from FY 2003 monies to support programming in response to the Liberia crisis and to maintain programming through the disbursement of FY 2004 monies. This funding includes \$4.3 million to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (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 SGBV, \$298,000 to U.N. Development Program (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.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE*			
Oxfam	Water/Sanitation and IDP Protection	Monrovia	\$1,058,193
IMC	Health	Montserrado and Lofa Counties	\$500,000
IRC	Measles	Monrovia	\$413,003
Merlin	Water/Sanitation, Health, Non-food items, Shelter	Monrovia/Harbel	\$1,460,380
ACF	Nutrition	Monrovia	\$265,873
ARC	IDP Camp Management, SGBV	Margibi	\$445,076
Northwest Medical	Health	Montserrado/Margibi	\$441,578
UN FAO	Coordination and Support	Countrywide	\$450,000
UNICEF	Measles and Water/Sanitation	Countrywide	\$600,000
UN OCHA	Humanitarian Information Center	Countrywide	\$660,000
UN OCHA	Coordination and Support	Countrywide	\$650,000
WFP	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$203,880
WFP	Joint Logistics Center	Countrywide	\$122,000
OFDA	Program Support	Countrywide	\$85,200
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$7,355,183
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP**	P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance – 25,380 MT	Countrywide	\$15,500,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$15,500,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA IN FY 2004			\$22,855,183
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA IN FY 2004			\$22,855,183

* USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of January 8, 2004.

** Estimated value of food assistance.



Tamra Halmrast-Sanchez
Acting Director
Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance