



**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 #5, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

October 29, 2003

Note: This Situation Report updates USAID/OFDA Liberia Situation Report #4, FY 2004, dated October 22, 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 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 widespread human suffering 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	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, September/October 2003

Total FY 2003 and FY 2004 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Liberia (To Date).....\$9,479,507
Total FY 2003 and FY 2004 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Liberia (To Date)..... \$50,290,403

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 transitional government.

Inauguration of the National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL). On October 14, Gyude Bryant was inaugurated as Chairman of the NTGL. The NTGL will be in office until the election of a new government in October 2005.

First meeting of the National Transitional Legislative Assembly (NTLA). The nominated members of the NTLA, the new 76-member parliament, initially met 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 Liberia's 15 counties did not attend the initial meeting. ECOWAS chief mediator General Abubakar had rejected county nominees after LURD and MODEL complaints that the county elections had been conducted in Monrovia rather than the counties themselves. General Abubakar has called for new elections in the counties.

Appointment of transitional government ministers. The August peace agreement provided for the creation of 21 government ministries, and allotted five each to LURD, MODEL, and the GOL, and the remaining six ministries to

unarmed political parties. On October 23, NTGL Chairman Bryant rejected three LURD nominees to government posts, on the basis that those posts would be filled either through the civil service or executive appointments. In response, LURD called for Bryant's resignation on October 25, and threatened to withdraw from the NTGL if Bryant did not step down. After Bryant agreed on October 27 to review the nominations and consult with the parties to the peace agreement before offering any future nominations, LURD retracted its threats to withdraw from the NTGL.

Establishment of U.N. Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). 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.

On September 19, the U.N. Security Council voted to establish a peace-keeping force for Liberia to assist in implementing the August peace agreement. On October 1, the ECOMIL troops were transferred to UNMIL authority. The force is expected to reach its full strength of 15,000 troops within three months. UNMIL will also consist of approximately 1,115 police officers and a civilian component.

As of October 28, there were 4,500 UNMIL troops in Liberia. In early October, approximately 800 Bangladeshi troops arrived in Monrovia from Sierra Leone as part of UNMIL. According to U.N. humanitarian sources, the Bangladeshi battalion began conducting patrols in Gbarnga in Bong County on October 25. UNMIL has also recently begun to patrol key highways, including the Monrovia-Gbarnga road, but will only station troops in the interior once additional UNMIL troops arrive.

Outbreaks of fighting in Grand Bassa County. 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 23, a MODEL representative accused fighters loyal to former GOL President Taylor of burning villages in Grand Bassa County and attacking a motorcade transporting MODEL Chairman Thomas Nimely.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs)

Interagency mission to Buchanan. On October 23, an interagency assessment mission met with MODEL leaders in Buchanan to obtain information on the humanitarian situation. The mission observed that UNMIL had deployed up to the St. John's Bridge near Buchanan, and that the route to Buchanan was clear of GOL and MODEL forces. The mission also indicated that the food situation had improved, with one cup of rice selling for L\$10, compared to L\$75 in previous months.

During the visit to Buchanan, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) delivered relief supplies including blankets, kitchen sets, and tarpaulins to IDPs at the Catholic mission compound, and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) donated two drug kits to the Buchanan Government Hospital.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) assessment.

On October 24, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) reported that FAO is conducting a needs assessment to identify the most vulnerable farming families in Montserrado, Bong, Margibi, Bassa, and Maryland counties. FAO is scheduled to commence distribution of vegetable kits and hand tools to farmers in these counties in early November.

Expansion of humanitarian corridors. On October 18, a U.N. assessment team flew by helicopter to Voinjama, close to the Guinean border. The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) stated that the town, which had not been visited by relief workers for four years, now has a residual population of 5,000, compared to a pre-war population of 50,000. During the week of October 20, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)-France visited Lofa County in preparation for the opening of an MSF-F office in Voinjama.

On October 28, UNHCR reported that it had sent an assessment mission by helicopter to Sanniquellie, the LURD-controlled headquarters in Nimba County, and returned by road to Monrovia. Based on its confirmation of road access between Sanniquellie and Monrovia, UNHCR stated that UNMIL can now extend its patrol to Ganta and beyond.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) officially opened its mission in Zwedru on October 20. Medical Emergency Relief International (Merlin) also recently opened an office in Zwedru.

DART FIELD ASSESSMENTS

DART visit to Kakata IDP camps. The USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), along with several U.N. agencies and implementing partners, conducted an assessment of the Kakata IDP camps on October 21. The main camp has 9,538 residents, and the majority of IDPs are from Lofa and Gbarpolu counties. An additional 3,600 IDPs are located in an administrative building that serves as a transit site, since there are not enough shelters in the camps to accommodate the incoming IDPs.

According to the DART, the Kakata camp and transit site require immediate assistance in the areas of health and water and sanitation. In addition, the DART advised that children should be screened for signs of malnutrition as soon as possible.

DART visit to Soul Clinic IDP camp in Paynesville.

On October 22, the DART visited the Soul Clinic IDP camp in Paynesville, which houses more than 13,000 IDPs from Lofa County. The Soul Clinic camp has not yet had food or non-food item distributions to date, as it is not an officially recognized site. MSF-F and Action Against Hunger (ACF) are providing limited water tankering assistance, and Merlin operates a small health clinic.

DART visit to Montserrado County camps. On October 23, the DART visited Wilson, Seighbeh, and Singe IDP camps and the Voice of America (VOA) refugee camp in Montserrado County. According to the DART, sanitary conditions in both Wilson and Seighbeh camps are sub-standard. The newly recognized Singe camp, located near Seighbeh, has neither wells nor latrines; however, the Association of Evangelicals of Liberia (AEL) and Tearfund are currently establishing water and sanitation services. In addition, the DART reports that plastic sheeting is needed for nearly 400 of the 591 camp shelters.

EDUCATION

Back-to-School program. On October 19, UNICEF imported 3,200 educational kits valued at \$1.3 million in preparation for the November 3 commencement of the Back-to-School education program. School registration began on October 20 in Monrovia and Grand Bassa, Montserrado, Bong, Bomi, Cape Mount, and Margibi counties. The program aims to return 750,000 children to the classroom, and will support approximately 20,000 teachers to teach in 3,700 schools. School feeding for 150,000 children will begin by December.

DISARMAMENT AND DEMOBILIZATION

LURD, MODEL, and GOL disarmament. On October 15, the chairmen of LURD and MODEL and former President Blah met with NTGL Chairman Bryant and agreed to disarm. On October 16, former President Blah relinquished a large quantity of GOL weapons to UNMIL. UNMIL reported that the 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, where they will be destroyed by a specialist team.

Obstacles to disarmament. LURD Chairman Sekou Conneh announced on October 24 that LURD forces will not disarm until LURD is represented in all government departments. LURD representatives have also stated that they will not disarm without payment for their arms. The U.N. has stated that although it will not offer compensation for weapons, it may eventually provide drug and psychological counseling, job training, and schooling, as well as \$300 to those who participate in nine months of rehabilitation.

HEALTH

Nutrition. According to UNICEF, some feeding centers are operating below capacity and may close in the near future.

ACF plans to close its therapeutic feeding center (TFC) in Sinkor and Mamba Point, but will continue to maintain sites at the Samuel K. Doe (SKD) Stadium and the VOA refugee camp. WFP and UNICEF will lead nutrition surveys in all 16 zones of Monrovia scheduled to begin during the second week in November. Save the Children (SCF) will conduct nutrition surveys in the Montserrado County camps beginning in early November.

Cholera. According to the DART, 1,566 cases of cholera were reported during the week of October 6, with a slight decrease in severe cases. MSF stated that its Monrovia clinics reported fewer cholera cases than in previous weeks.

Acute Jaundice Syndrome. Nineteen cases of Acute Jaundice Syndrome were reported during the week of October 20. However, since all cases originated from one clinic, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) is investigating the issue.

WATER AND SANITATION

Well chlorination. During the week of October 20, the eighth and final round of well chlorination was completed, and 5,872 wells were disinfected. In the future, well chlorination will be conducted in specific parts of town that report elevated cases of cholera or bloody diarrhea.

FOOD

WFP and USAID/FFP operations. WFP began food distributions in Monrovia on August 15. USAID's 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 4,595 MTs of commodities to 303,079 beneficiaries between September 20 and October 13. In addition to other food distributions during the week of October 20, WFP distributed 31 MTs of food commodities for 2,058 beneficiaries between October 25 and October 27. Distributions to refugees were completed on October 27.

After MSF-Switzerland (MSF-CH) found high malnutrition rates among refugees and IDPs in Sacliepie camp in Nimba County during a rapid assessment conducted during the week of October 20, WFP and MSF-CH carried out an emergency food distribution of 8 MTs to 1,825 beneficiaries in Sacliepie.

Vessel discharges. Discharge of the Motor Vessel (M.V.) Dania was completed on October 22, and the vessel left Monrovia the same day. The M.V. Wilson arrived in

Monrovia on October 26, and departed on October 28 after discharging a total of 2,515 MTs of bulgur wheat.

Protests at Samuel K. Doe stadium. On October 17, a group of IDPs from the SKD Stadium 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. WFP agreed to facilitate a visit to Fendell camp by IDP representatives on October 20 to allow the IDPs to decide whether to relocate.

Resumption of food distributions beyond Monrovia. On October 27, WFP announced that it had resumed full operations after a two-week suspension of food distribution outside of Monrovia, due to fears for the safety of staff and equipment. WFP also expressed intentions to distribute food in Nimba County, Voinjama, and Harper.

WFP prevented from conducting verification exercise. On October 24, IDP leaders prevented WFP from carrying out a population verification exercise at Wilson Camp in Montserrado County. In response, WFP clarified the need for validation of registration data. WFP stated that food distributions will be carried out only in camps where IDPs have been properly registered and the data has been confirmed.

Emergency school feeding program. WFP signed an agreement with NGO German Agro-Action (GAA) to implement the Emergency School Feeding Program scheduled to commence in early November. GAA has identified 80 primary schools for implementation of the program, and will reach 20,000 school children in Monrovia over the next few months. WFP will provide 817 MTs of food items from November 2003 to June 2004, and a joint school assessment will begin on October 29.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Non-food assistance. In FY 2003, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) obligated more than \$5.5 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 provided 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 nearly \$4 million to support humanitarian activities in Liberia. USAID/OFDA approved 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 approved 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 approved more than \$265,000 to ACF. In support of Unification Camp, USAID/OFDA approved more than \$455,000 to the American Refugee Committee (ARC) for camp management and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) activities.

USAID initially deployed a three-person DART, including a Team Leader, Program Officer, and Information Officer, on July 20. This team currently includes a Team Leader, Field Officer, USAID/OFDA Program Officer, USAID/FFP Officer, and a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Epidemiologist.

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				\$37,879,507
USAID/OFDA.....				\$9,479,507
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
	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
	ARC	IDP camp management	Montserrado County	\$455,076
	UN OCHA**	Humanitarian Information Center	Country-wide	\$310,000
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.....				\$50,290,403

* Included in this figure is \$113,208 provided by USAID’s Bureau for Global Health.

** Funding is in process; award to be made shortly.

*** 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.