



**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 #6, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

November 5, 2003

*Note: This Situation Report updates USAID/OFDA Liberia Situation Report #5, FY 2004, dated October 29, 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	<b>Total: 500,000 in Liberia</b> 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 Ivoirians in Liberia 14,000 Sierra Leoneans in Liberia	U.N. OCHA and UNHCR, October/November 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 remain in office until the election of a new government in October 2005.

***NTGL Chairman Speech to the Nation.*** On November 2, in his first speech to the nation since the inauguration, Bryant announced the lowering of the retail price of rice and fuel and the payment of salaries to civil servants. He also stated that he had approved nominations to 18 of the 21 ministerial posts in the transitional government and that these would be sent to the National Transitional Legislative Assembly (NTLA) for confirmation. Bryant also stated that the NTGL had inherited a \$3 billion debt from previous governments.

***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 in early 2004. UNMIL will also consist of approximately 1,115 police officers and a civilian component.

As of October 28, there were approximately 4,500 UNMIL troops in Liberia. In early October, approximately 800 Bangladeshi troops arrived in Monrovia from Sierra Leone as part of UNMIL. On November 2, the Government of the Philippines announced that a contingent of 145 soldiers from the Philippines had departed for Liberia on November 1.

***LURD Re-opening of Po River Bridge.*** On October 28, LURD announced that it had lifted a three-day ban on relief vehicles moving out of Monrovia on the main road west to Tubmanburg and the Sierra Leone border. The Po River Bridge separates the zone controlled by UNMIL in Monrovia from the LURD-controlled areas in the north and west of the country.

LURD had closed the main road on October 25 in protest at the rejection of three LURD nominees to senior government posts by NTGL Chairman Bryant. After the closing, the U.N. urged LURD to ensure that its fighters did not prevent relief vehicles from entering into LURD-controlled territories.

On October 30, LURD leader Sekou Damate Conneh promised that the U.N. would be allowed free movement in LURD-controlled territories. In addition, Conneh indicated willingness to cooperate with the NTGL.

### **INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs)**

***WFP Assessment Mission to Buchanan.*** On October 28, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) conducted a joint assessment mission in Buchanan. According to WFP, most of the 12 irregular shelters occupied by IDPs are now empty. The majority of the 33,000 IDPs assisted by WFP in September have relocated to a single camp on the outskirts of the city. An estimated 2,500 people remain in the shelters.

***Relocation of IDPs.*** On November 4, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (U.N. OCHA) announced that 5,191 IDPs had been relocated from 29 irregular shelters, including schools, in Monrovia and the surrounding region as of October 30. In order to accommodate the additional IDPs, six of the seven IDP camps in Montserrado County have been allocated a total of more than 332 acres of new land. Moreover, in Unification Town, the site for the relocation of 8,000 IDPs from the Harbel/Firestone Plantation, Medical Emergency Relief International (Merlin), and the American Refugee Committee (ARC) are constructing shelters.

### **REFUGEES**

***Repatriation to Sierra Leone.*** On October 29, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) resumed the repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees from Liberia to Sierra Leone by air, marking the first organized return movement since the signing of the peace agreement on August 18. The returnees received a repatriation package with relief items, a transport allowance of approximately \$9, and a four-month food ration. UNHCR is working with WFP to organize twice-weekly flights for up to 40 Sierra Leonean refugees in Liberia per week. Approximately 14,000 Sierra Leoneans remain in Liberia's camps.

### **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" campaign. On November 4, U.N. OCHA reported that UNICEF had provided "school-in-a-box" kits to five counties for 327,680 children. 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.

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 (MTs) 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 of Liberia's estimated 38,000 combatants in December with the opening of the first cantonment center for troops of the army of former president Charles Taylor 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 fighters will then be discharged and receive an undisclosed sum of money. 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 cantonments 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, ECOWAS, and the African Union may be 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.

## HEALTH

**Cholera and Watery Diarrhea.** According to the USAID/Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), 1,252 cases of acute watery diarrhea were reported during the week of October 13.

**Measles.** According to the DART, 334,336 children were vaccinated against measles in the greater Monrovia area and IDP camps in Montserrado County through October 29. The campaign will now be expanded to Margibi County with 205,000 children targeted.

**Nutrition.** On October 27, WFP conducted a rapid assessment of the health and nutrition situation in IDP camps in Totota and Salala. According to WFP, the health and nutrition situation appears stable in the camps, and nutrition screening data indicated that the nutrition situation appears to have improved since last September. Médecins Sans Frontières-France (MSF-F) has reported some severe cases of kwashiorkor and a number of children with marasmus.

According to the DART, MSF-Switzerland (MSF-S) recently screened 261 children for a rapid nutrition assessment in Saglepie in Nimba County. MSF-S reported that 2.3 percent of the children are severely malnourished, 7.3 percent are moderately malnourished, and 15.0 percent are mildly malnourished. Equip Liberia has also reported widespread kwashiorkor in Nimba County.

## FOOD

**WFP and USAID/FFP Operations.** WFP began food distributions in Monrovia on August 15. USAID/FFP reported that 15,700 MTs of USAID/FFP food commodities arrived in the region in early September. Additional commodities are due to arrive 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.** From October 28 to October 29, WFP provided food assistance to 8,526 refugees for a total of 129 MTs of assorted food commodities. In addition, 305 Monrovia IDPs relocated to Fendell received food assistance from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), WFP's implementing partner in the camp.

The second cycle of distributions in IDP camps outside of Monrovia began on October 30 in Jah Tondo, a Montserrado County camp. A total of 14,364 IDPs will be provided with a one-month ration of cereals, pulses, oil, and salt. The distribution is being carried out by Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), WFP's implementing partner.

**WFP Population Verification Exercises.** On October 24, IDP leaders had prevented WFP from carrying out a population verification exercise at Wilson Camp in Montserrado County. However, on November 4, WFP announced that the IDP leaders have agreed to support WFP and the implementing partners in a population verification exercise to begin soon.

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. These figures were recently verified by a team of more than 100 WFP and implementing partner staff deployed in the targeted camps for two days. Numbers are currently being processed and integrated into WFP's database.

**Registration Awareness Workshop.** On October 29, a WFP team carried out a registration awareness workshop in Salala and Tumutu IDP camps to train camp leaders in basic emergency registrations. Registration in both camps began on October 30. WFP, along with implementing partners, will conduct a rapid verification exercise before proceeding with distributions during the week of November 3.

**Arrival of Commodities.** On October 24, the Motor Vessel (M.V.) Princes arrived in Monrovia carrying 330 MTs of pulses. That same day, the M.V. Adrian Maersk with 126 MTs of salt and the Clipper Elite Carrier (CEC) Hunter with 940 MTs of vegetable oil also arrived in Monrovia. On November 3, the NDS Proteus arrived carrying 495 MTs of corn-soya blend (CSB).

## COORDINATION

**Establishment of Operations Center.** On October 28, the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) announced that U.N. OCHA, the Office of the U.N. Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD), UNMIL, the Humanitarian Information Center, and the UNJLC planned to establish an Operations Center. The Operations Center will provide a common platform to focus on multi-sectoral humanitarian coordination within Liberia. The functional areas of the Operations Center will include logistics, security, information, coordination, and liaison with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local authorities.

## USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

**Non-food Assistance.** In FY 2003, USAID/OFDA obligated more than \$5.5 million to support humanitarian needs in Liberia. USAID/OFDA provided more than \$517,000 to Action Against Hunger (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 International Rescue Committee (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 U.N. OCHA to support coordination and protection of IDPs. USAID/OFDA also approved \$310,000 in funding to U.N. 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 for malaria control and prevention. USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1 million to 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 Save the Children-United Kingdom (SCF-UK).

In FY 2004, USAID/OFDA has committed approximately \$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 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. [DART staff remained in Liberia through the end of October. 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. DART team members who rotated throughout the DART's 15-week duration based on needs, included the following: a Program Officer, a USAID/FFP Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Epidemiologists, an Information Officer, a Security Officer, a Communications Officer, a Water and Sanitation Officer, a Protection Officer, and a Field Officer.](#)

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 an U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) emergency health kit with 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-UK, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and Merlin, and were distributed to targeted clinics, orphanages, therapeutic feeding centers, and IDP centers in Monrovia and the Harbel/Firestone 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 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 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 the U.N. Development Program (UNDP) and 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>
<b>LIBERIA – FY 2003 AND FY 2004</b>				
<b>USAID FY 2003 and FY 2004 .....</b>				<b>\$37,879,507</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA.....</b>				<b>\$9,479,507</b>
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
	U.N. 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	Margibi County	\$455,076
	U.N. OCHA**	Humanitarian Information Center	Country-wide	\$310,000
<b>USAID/FFP.....</b>				<b>\$28,400,000</b>
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
<b>STATE/PRM<sup>∞</sup> .....</b>				<b>\$12,410,896</b>
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
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA IN FY 2003 AND FY 2004.....</b>				<b>\$50,290,403</b>

\* 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](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/help/index.html)
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or 703-276-1914
  - InterAction: [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org) → “Guide to Appropriate Giving”
- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.org](http://www.reliefweb.org).