



**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 #9, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

December 18, 2003

Note: The last situation report was dated December 4, 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).....\$6,855,183
Total FY 2004 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Liberia (To Date).....\$22,355,183

CURRENT SITUATION

Disarmament and demobilization campaign. Although the United Nations (U.N.) formally launched the Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration (DDRR) campaign on December 1, disarmament of former GOL forces began on December 7 at Camp Schieffellin, located on the main highway between Monrovia and Roberts International Airport (RIA), 35 miles east of the capital. UNMIL had originally planned to use three cantonment centers, but only Camp Schieffellin was opened for the launch of the campaign. The U.N. plans to establish separate cantonment sites for LURD in the Tubmanburg area and for MODEL in Buchanan.

UNMIL plans to open up to 10 cantonment sites by April 2004.

According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 250 children were disarmed and either housed overnight at Camp Schieffellin or taken to Interim Care Centers in Monrovia on December 7. Also on December 7, more than 1,000 ex-combatants arrived at the cantonment center, four times the number anticipated by UNMIL. The unexpectedly large number of ex-combatants seeking to exchange weapons for cash, escalated tensions among the assembled ex-combatants, and logistical problems resulted in rioting and demonstrations, according to both UN OCHA and media reports. The instability escalated between

December 8 and 9 with incidents of shooting and hijacking of vehicles along the highway. Approximately 12 people were killed in the rioting in Monrovia. In response, the NTGL imposed a curfew from December 9 to 12, and several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) curtailed activities. UNMIL temporarily restricted travel along the highway to RIA.

Although the security situation gradually improved with the increased deployment of UNMIL, the U.N. decided to temporarily suspend the disarmament program until arrangements can be made to improve conditions at Camp Schieffellin. DDRR has been suspended from December 18 to January 20 in order to allow the construction of latrines, shelters, and health and administrative facilities at Camp Schieffellin. As of December 16, UNMIL had collected 7,754 weapons and registered 9,860 ex-combatants, according to the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC).

Status of UNMIL deployment. To date, 5,600 UNMIL troops, out of the expected 15,000, are on the ground in Liberia, according to UNJLC.

Relocation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The Internally Displaced Persons Committee (IDPC), which is coordinated by UN OCHA, is preparing to relocate 7,000 IDPs from the Samuel K. Doe (SKD) Stadium to various IDP camps in Montserrado and Margibi Counties. According to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), the humanitarian community is concerned that ex-combatants from the nearby cantonment center, Camp Schieffellin, will move into SKD following DDRR. UN OCHA has also reported high incidence of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in SKD and warned that the situation could worsen given the Stadium's close proximity to the cantonment site. In addition to SKD, IDPs are still residing in two irregular shelters: the Masonic Temple and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

On December 5, according to UN OCHA, 1,630 IDPs relocated from Harbel/Firestone to three official camps: Unification Town, Mount Barclay, and Ricks Institute. IDPs have vacated all the schools in the Harbel/Firestone area, according to UN OCHA.

Refugee repatriation. During the first week of December, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) repatriated approximately 28 Sierra Leonean refugees by air from Monrovia to Freetown.

According to UN OCHA, UNCHR has documented cases of young Sierra Leonean refugees conscripted by various Liberian armed factions. On December 5, UN OCHA reported that, in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UNHCR traced and facilitated the reunification of six of these children with their families. However, the Christian Children's Fund reported the presence of Sierra Leonean child combatants in the

Tubmanberg area, according to a December 8 USAID/OFDA field report.

Prevention of SGBV. The link between a lack of adequate lighting in IDP shelters and camps and the perpetration of acts of SGBV has been repeatedly emphasized by several participants in both the NGO Protection Group and the Internally Displaced Persons Committee (IDPC) in Monrovia. Medical Emergency Relief International (Merlin) has installed generators and lights at the SKD Stadium, where abuses have been reported regularly and has investigated the cost of installing generators in five IDP camps in an effort to decrease acts of SGBV. Mercy Corps is considering installing solar-powered lights in and around latrines in IDP camps, where acts of SGBV often occur. The U.N. Development Program (UNDP) is supporting the training of local NGOs in protection and human rights abuses, and during the first week of December, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) facilitated a SGBV training workshop.

Health situation. During the first week in December, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) received reports of 675 cases of cholera, marking the fifth consecutive week of decline in reported cases. According to WHO, the incidence of bloody diarrhea (dysentery) has also declined over the past three weeks from 972 cases reported between November 17 and 23 to 675 cases reported between December 1 and 7.

The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) is working to improve the coordination, preparedness, and implementation of the measles morbidity reduction campaign (MMRC). According to UNICEF, 652,000 children between the ages of six months and 15 years have been inoculated since the start of the campaign in June. The target population is 1,500,000 children throughout Liberia.

Ongoing food distributions. By December 10, WFP completed registration in all regular IDP camps. WFP plans to conduct verification exercises in all up-country camps during the week of December 15. However, WFP temporarily suspended food distributions, except in Unification Town, on December 9 and 10 due to the insecurity in and around Monrovia that accompanied the start of the DDRR program. On December 11, WFP resumed food distributions to IDPs in Unification Town and Bong and Montserrado Counties. A total of 11,053 beneficiaries received 155.3 metric tons (MT) of food commodities.

Back-to-School program. According to UN OCHA, 7,221 Liberian teachers participated in the UNICEF Back-to-School orientation workshops by December 5. The workshops will resume in January.

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.

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 \$6.8 million to support humanitarian activities in Liberia. USAID/OFDA obligated more than \$1 million to Oxfam to support water and sanitation and protection activities and approved more than \$400,000 to the IRC to support measles immunization programs. USAID/OFDA obligated more than \$1.4 million to 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 approved more than \$455,000 to the American Refugee Committee (ARC) for camp management and SGBV activities. USAID/OFDA has also committed approximately \$440,000 for Northwest Medical Teams International to undertake health activities in Liberia. 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.

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. 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 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.

Also in FY 2003, 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>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
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	Administrative and Program Support	Countrywide	\$85,200
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$6,855,183
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			\$22,355,183
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA IN FY 2004			\$22,355,183

* USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of December 18, 2003.

** Estimated value of food assistance.



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