



**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 #11, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

February 3, 2004

Note: The last situation report was dated January 9, 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 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 13,000 Sierra Leoneans in Liberia	UN OCHA and UNHCR, October/November 2003 UNHCR, January 2004

Total FY 2004 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Liberia (To Date).....\$7,430,183
Total FY 2004 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Liberia (To Date).....\$22,930,183

CURRENT SITUATION

Political developments. An internal feud is threatening to split LURD between the current chairman, Sekou Conneh, and his wife, Aicha Conneh, whom many LURD combatants have called on to lead the group. On January 26, Sekou Conneh and the leadership of MODEL called for the resignation of NTGL Chairman Bryant. However, on January 27, MODEL retracted the demand. The LURD faction supporting Aicha Conneh also rejected the call for Bryant's resignation.

Disarmament and demobilization campaign. On January 17, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) launched an

information and sensitization campaign at the Harbel sports stadium to encourage the disarmament and rehabilitation of Liberia's child combatants. On January 20, UNMIL began a 15-day information and sensitization campaign for all combatants as part of the nationwide Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration (DDRR) program. On December 18, UNMIL suspended the DDRR program, which is expected to resume in February, according to the United Nations Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC). UNMIL plans to open approximately ten cantonment sites under the DDRR program by April 2004. Cantonment centers for each of the warring factions are to

open simultaneously. Until the cantonment centers are operational, the NTGL has agreed to arrange for the feeding of GOL, LURD, and MODEL ex-combatants.

Status of UNMIL deployment. As of January 20, there were 9,891 UNMIL troops, out of the expected 15,000, on the ground in Liberia, according to the UNJLC. The current UNMIL force includes peacekeeping troops from the following countries: Bangladesh, Benin, China, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ireland, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Senegal.

One thousand Ethiopian peacekeeping troops deployed to Zwedru in mid-January. Zwedru is the farthest point of UNMIL deployment to date, and the Ethiopian contingent is currently repairing the Zwedru Hospital, which had been abandoned following extensive looting.

On January 12, Pakistani peacekeeping troops reopened the Sasstown health center, located in Kley District, treating more than 600 patients during a three-day clinic. UNMIL reopened the health center in coordination with the NTGL, and the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) provided drugs and equipment, including basic health, trauma, malaria, obstetric, and laboratory kits.

Despite these positive developments, areas beyond the reach of UNMIL continue to experience widespread insecurity and violence, including rape, forced labor, and looting, according to both Human Rights Watch and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

U.N. training of Liberian police officers. On January 12, U.N. police officers began a two-week training course for 400 former Liberian police officers. The Interim Police Training Course will re-train 25 police officers per class at the Liberian National Police Academy until all 400 officers have completed the course. According to the U.N. Police Commissioner in Liberia, Mark Kroeker, the new police force will receive training in human rights, rule of law, and democratic principles. Of the promised 1,115 U.N. police officers scheduled to be deployed to Liberia, approximately 100 have arrived to restructure and retrain the Liberia police force, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA).

Relocation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). On January 15, more than 600 IDPs moved from the Masonic Temple, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and Kendija to officially recognized camps in Montserrado County. The Liberia Refugee Repatriation Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) reported that some IDP leaders resisted the relocation efforts for fear of losing the provision of humanitarian assistance. According to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), plans are underway to relocate IDPs from the three remaining irregular shelters in Monrovia: the Oxygen Factory, Old Executive Mansion, and West Point. Both non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and U.N. agencies are

reporting increasing numbers of IDPs returning to their places of origin. However, according to UN OCHA, many of these IDPs maintain links with the camps in order to ensure continued humanitarian assistance.

Refugees. As security increases beyond Monrovia with the deployment of international peacekeeping troops, cross-border refugee movements from Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Côte d'Ivoire are increasing, according to UNMIL. On January 10, an UNMIL Dutch Navy vessel rescued approximately 220 Liberian refugees returning from Ghana aboard a self-chartered boat. The refugees were stranded for four days off the Liberian coast. According to UN OCHA, 518 Liberia refugees who had been living in Sierra Leone entered Perry Town camp in Montserrado County during December. On January 29, UN OCHA reported that more than 10,000 Liberian refugees have spontaneously returned from Sierra Leone since the installation of the NTGL in October.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) repatriated 37 Sierra Leonean refugees by air on January 15. UNHCR hopes to resume overland repatriation convoys as soon as UNMIL deploys to Bomi County and begins patrolling the Monrovia/Bo-Waterside area. According to UNHCR, the U.N. repatriated more than 4,083 Sierra Leonean refugees in 2003 and plans to repatriate the remaining 13,000 by June 2004.

Health and nutrition situation. During the week of January 5 to January 11, the Ministry of Health (MOH) reported 453 cases of cholera but no cholera-related deaths. The MOH also reported 117 new cases of bloody diarrhea (dysentery) and 2,485 cases of clinical malaria, of which 655 were positively confirmed. A week-long health survey, conducted by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) during the first week of January, indicated the following morbidity figures in IRC-supported clinics: malaria at 44 percent, acute respiratory infections at 16 percent, skin infections at 10 percent, worms at 9 percent, and diarrhea at 6 percent. Since the start of the measles campaign in June 2002, UNICEF and NGO partners have immunized a total of 732,732 children between the ages of six months and 15 years, according to UN OCHA. Save the Children Fund – United Kingdom (SCF-UK) and the Bong County Health Team are currently immunizing children in Salala District.

The preliminary results of a joint survey conducted by Action Against Hunger (ACF) and SCF-UK indicate a low global acute malnutrition rate in Liberia ranging from 3.4 percent to 7.8 percent for children between the ages of 6 and 59 months. The survey included a total of 2,551 children under the age of five.

Ongoing food distributions. During January, WFP plans to distribute 5,863 metric tons (MT) of assorted food commodities to 416,199 beneficiaries. On January 5, WFP began distributing a total of 607 MT of food to 36,940 IDPs in

the following camps: Mount Barclay, Newland, Ricks Institute, VOA, Blamasee, Jah Tondo, and Unification Town. Between January 22 and January 26, WFP distributed a two-week food ration to 21,000 beneficiaries in Saclepea, Nimba County. On January 28, WFP announced plans to expand food distributions in Nimba County to include Sanniquellie. WFP also plans to begin distributions in Bomi County before the end of the month.

Emergency School Feeding (ESF). WFP and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) are conducting assessments of 187 schools in Margibi County to determine which schools will be included in the ESF program. WFP estimates that approximately 116,000 pupils will have received one meal per day by the end of January under the EFP program. As of January 13, WFP reported that the total number of beneficiaries in the school feeding program (including teachers) was 61,549.

Back-to-School program. UNICEF, through local partners, has constructed temporary learning spaces for IDP children living in three Montserrado Camps. 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 FY2003 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) 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 from donors at the conference.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Non-food assistance. In FY 2003, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$5.5 million to support humanitarian needs in Liberia. In FY 2004, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$7.4 million. Of this total, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1 million to Oxfam to support water and sanitation and protection activities and more than \$400,000 to IRC to support measles immunization programs. USAID/OFDA provided 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 provided more than \$265,000 to 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 provided \$600,000 to 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 granted 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 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 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.

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).

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	\$160,200
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$7,430,183
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			\$22,930,183
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA IN FY 2004			\$22,930,183

* USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of February 3, 2004.

** Estimated value of food assistance.



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