



**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 #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

July 17, 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 the dominant power, winning the 1997 presidential election. Two opposition groups, controlling between 60 and 80 percent of the country, are currently attempting to oust Taylor from power. The main opposition group, Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), has been fighting President Taylor since 1999 and 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. Years of conflict have had devastating consequences for the humanitarian situation in Liberia, which is currently ranked 174 out of 175 countries by the United Nations (U.N.) World Human Development Index, which measures health and living conditions.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Internally Displaced	Total : 400,000 – 500,000* 145,959 – Monrovia in Irregular Settlements 50,700 – Montserrado Camps 92,000 – Bong County 8,400 – Grand Bassa County 8,500 – Margibi County 100,000-200,000 – Monrovia with Host Families	European Commission, July 2003 European Commission, July 2003 European Commission, July 2003 European Commission, July 2003 European Commission, July 2003 MSF, July 2003
Refugees	123,000 Liberians in Guinea 53,000 Liberians in Sierra Leone 50,000 Liberians in Côte d’Ivoire 14,000 Sierra Leoneans in Liberia	UNHCR, June 2003 UNHCR, June 2003 UNHCR, June 2003 UNHCR, July 2003

*Other sources estimate the IDP population country-wide to be as high as 600,000.

Total FY 2003 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Liberia \$1,268,784
Total FY 2003 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Liberia..... \$8,268,784

CURRENT SITUATION

Political.

Cease-fire negotiations aimed at ending the ongoing conflict resumed in Accra on July 4, and, on July 6, President Taylor accepted an offer of temporary asylum in Nigeria. However, President Taylor stipulated that he would only relinquish power after the arrival of international peacekeeping troops. On July 11, LURD vowed to fight any peacekeeping troops that arrive before President Taylor steps down. The Economic Community of West African States is planning to send troops to Liberia shortly. A U.N. Joint Verification Team is in Freetown awaiting clearance from UN Headquarters to map out positions of all armed forces in Liberia in preparation for the deployment of monitors.

A U.S. military assessment team arrived in Liberia on July 7 to review the security situation in order to establish conditions for the return of humanitarian workers. USAID/OFDA’s Emergency Disaster Response Coordinator for the Mano River Countries is participating in the U.S. military team’s assessment. The team has visited several irregular settlements for internally displaced persons (IDPs) around Monrovia, including the Redemption Hospital, D.Tueh high school, Wilson corner, and the Voice of America (VOA) camp.

Displaced Populations.

The European Commission (EC) and some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) estimate that between 400,000 and 500,000 people are currently displaced in Liberia as a result of the conflict. With the influx of IDPs, the population of Monrovia has reached

approximately one million people. According to the EC, there are more than 145,000 IDPs living in 90 irregular shelters in Monrovia. The majority of these IDPs are from camps in surrounding counties or residents of Monrovia fleeing insecurity in the suburbs. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) estimates that an additional 100,000 to 200,000 IDPs are living with host families in the capital. EC estimates that 50,700 IDPs remain in the seven camps in Montserrado County, north of the capital, and approximately 109,000 IDPs are living in camps in Bong, Margibi, and Grand Bassa Counties.

According to U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (UN OCHA), the IDPs living in and around Monrovia have only rudimentary access to clean water, sanitation facilities, food, and health care. UN OCHA estimates that more than half of the one million people in Monrovia are considered vulnerable.

Refugees.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has evacuated more than 1,057 Sierra Leonean refugees by ship from Monrovia to Freetown in a continuing operation that began on July 4. The Motor Vessel (MV) Overbeck will make the return trip approximately every four days, carrying between 300 and 350 refugees per voyage, until all those who wish to return to Sierra Leone are repatriated, according to UNHCR.

Following the completion of the Joint Assessment Mission, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and UNHCR predict that there will be an influx of approximately 20,000 Liberian refugees into Guinea and 30,000 into Sierra Leone by the end of the year. Additional Liberian refugees are also expected to cross into Côte d'Ivoire.

Health.

According to UN OCHA, cholera and other diarrheal diseases, measles, and malaria are increasing in Monrovia. As of July 10, 450 cases of cholera had been reported at the John F. Kennedy hospital in Monrovia. According to the Minister of Health, five new cases are reported at the hospital each day, and ten new cases are reported each week at the Samuel Doe stadium, which contains 10,000 IDPs. On July 15, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that the total number of cholera cases in Monrovia stands at 1,630. Thousands more are at risk of disease as a result of contaminated water. Hospitals lack water necessary for bathing and cleaning. WHO has provided basic health kits to support 7,000 people for three months as well as 4,000 sachets of re-hydration salts and 156 liters of ringer lactate to treat cholera. However, without new supplies of chlorine to bolster low stocks, contaminated water will continue to encourage disease.

The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) has ended a campaign to vaccinate 128,000 children under the age of five and 230,000 women of child-bearing age against measles and tetanus around Monrovia because of the current insecurity. The vaccinations were the first part of a two stage campaign targeting 1.4 million children.

Water and Sanitation.

According to the International Rescue Committee (IRC), needs in the water and sanitation sector are even greater than needs in the health care sector. A joint assessment team comprised of representatives from the EC, UN OCHA, the Government of Liberia (GOL), and Medical Emergency Relief International (Merlin), within Monrovia, reports that 69 percent of the temporary IDP sites lack access to potable water and 78 percent lack access to sanitation facilities.

The European Union (EU) continues to supply water to several campsites and water stations in and around Monrovia. Several NGOs are also trucking water to campsites around the capital. According to the Minister of Health, the GOL plans to launch a mass chlorination of wells in Monrovia in collaboration with UNICEF and WHO. OXFAM, IRC, and other NGOs are constructing latrines and bathhouses at various locations to address immediate needs. Despite these efforts, the provision of water to IDPs remains limited, and at some camps IDPs are forced to purchase water.

Food.

Much of Liberia's population has been cut off from humanitarian assistance for months, and WFP estimates that malnutrition rates are high. The last food distribution to IDP camps north of Monrovia was in April. Due to the current instability, WFP has not been able to conduct a comprehensive registration exercise to determine overall beneficiary numbers, but preliminary WFP estimates indicate that at least 182,000 people are in need of food assistance in Monrovia alone.

According to WFP, as long as security remains problematic, food assistance will remain limited and may not target the most vulnerable. In order to continue to provide food assistance in the current environment, WFP is in the process of chartering a supply ship to function as a mobile office off the coast of Monrovia. The ship would be shared with UNICEF and UN OCHA and would be used for an initial period of two-months. According to UN OCHA, food insecurity among the IDPs continues to be critical. Because they cannot travel into the villages to look for food sources, many IDPs have had to beg and/or sell their possessions to purchase food. There are reports of increasing malnutrition among children under the age of five in both in the camps and host communities.

Shelter and Non-Food Needs.

Forced out of established IDP camps by fighting and insecurity, thousands of displaced persons have been forced to seek refuge in Monrovia, some in the open air, exposed to the elements. According to IRC, even those IDPs who are living in schools and other public buildings are vulnerable to the heavy rains, as many of the IDP centers have leaking roofs. A joint assessment team comprised of representatives from the EC, UN OCHA, the GOL, and Merlin, reports that 81 percent of the irregular IDP settlement locations require the distribution of basic non-food items.

Several NGOs have been distributing non-food items to IDPs in irregular settlements. However, non-food resources in-country are limited and NGOs are hesitant to restock existing supplies out of concern for continued insecurity.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

In FY 2003, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.2 million to support humanitarian needs in Liberia. USAID/OFDA provided more than \$517,000 to Action Against Hunger (ACF) to support of emergency nutrition needs in Monrovia and more than \$751,000 to Merlin to address emergency health and water and sanitation needs throughout Liberia. USAID/OFDA is preparing to deploy a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to Liberia the week of July 21st that will work with NGOs, other U.S. government entities, and the U.N. on humanitarian requirements.

Nutrition

Thus far in FY 2003, USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has provided 9,260 metric tons of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at \$6 million, to Liberia. The commodities provided by USAID/FFP include a combination of cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil, and Corn Soya 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.

Refugees

The State Department’s Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has provided support for Liberian refugees since 1989 and for Sierra Leonean refugees in Liberia since 1991. To date in FY 2003, State/PRM has provided \$1 million in emergency assistance for refugees in Liberia through UNHCR. 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 (\$55.1 million) and ICRC for Africa (\$29.2 million).

OTHER DONOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE¹

In addition to the USG’s efforts, several other donors have made significant humanitarian contributions to Liberia in 2003.

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Norway	\$6,010,000
Canada	\$387,806
Sweden	\$1,151,002
Netherlands	\$189,000
Italy	\$139,899
Switzerland	\$81,103
Ireland	\$269,108

¹ As reported by UN OCHA’s ReliefWeb Financial Tracking of donor contributions inside and outside of the U.N. Consolidated Appeal on July 14, 2003

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>		<i>Amount</i>
Liberia – FY 2003				
USAID Total				\$7,268,784
USAID/OFDA				\$1,268,784
	ACF	Nutrition	Monrovia	\$517,773
	Merlin	Health and Water/Sanitation	Country-wide	\$751,011
USAID/FFP				\$6,000,000
	WFP	P.L. 480 Title II Food Assistance – 9,260 MT	Country-wide	\$6,000,000
STATE/PRM*				\$1,000,000
	UNHCR	Annual Refugee Operations	Country-wide	\$1,000,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA IN FY 2003				\$8,268,784

* 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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