



PROFILE OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT : LIBERIA

Compilation of the information available in the Global IDP
Database of the Norwegian Refugee Council

(as of 13 September, 2003)

Also available at <http://www.idproject.org>

Users of this document are welcome to credit the Global IDP Database for the collection of information.

The opinions expressed here are those of the sources and are not necessarily shared by the Global IDP
Project or NRC

Norwegian Refugee Council/Global IDP Project
Chemin Moïse Duboule, 59
1209 Geneva - Switzerland
Tel: + 41 22 799 07 00
Fax: + 41 22 799 07 01
E-mail : idpsurvey@nrc.ch

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	1
PROFILE SUMMARY	9
SUMMARY	9
CAUSES AND BACKGROUND OF DISPLACEMENT	13
BACKGROUND TO THE CONFLICT	13
A CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS (1980-2003)	13
WAR CONTINUED THROUGHOUT 1990s DESPITE NUMEROUS PEACE ATTEMPTS (1997-2000)	14
MONROVIA WAS ENGULFED BY VIOLENCE IN APRIL 1996	15
ABUJA PEACE AGREEMENT FINALLY REACHED IN AUGUST 1996 AND PRESIDENT ELECTED IN 1997	15
LIBERIAN DISSIDENTS OPERATING OUT OF GUINEA ARE BLAMED FOR INCURSIONS AND INSTABILITY FROM 1999-2001	16
LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY (FEBRUARY 2002)	17
ALLEGATIONS THAT UPSURGE IN FIGHTING HAS BEEN 'STAGE-MANAGED' (FEBRUARY 2002)	18
LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN OCTOBER 2003 DESPITE THE WAR (JANUARY 2003)	19
LIBERIAN PRESIDENT ORDERS PROBE INTO AID WORKERS KILLINGS (MARCH 2003)	20
NEW REBEL MOVEMENT CALLED MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRACY IN LIBERIA (MODEL) OPERATES IN SOUTH EASTERN LIBERIA (SINCE APRIL 2003)	21
ECOWAS LEADS EFFORTS TO ENFORCE THE CEASE-FIRE AND CLEAR THE WAY FOR HUMANITARIAN AID TO RESUME IN LIBERIA (AUGUST 2003)	21
MAIN CAUSES OF DISPLACEMENT	22
HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CIVILIANS WERE FORCED TO FLEE THEIR HOMES DURING COUNTRY'S CIVIL WAR (1989-1997)	22
THOUSANDS OF CIVILIANS NEWLY DISPLACED WITH RESURGENCE OF VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN LOFA COUNTY IN 2000 (JULY-OCTOBER 2000)	23
FURTHER DISPLACEMENTS ACCOMPANY INTENSIFICATION OF VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN LIBERIA IN 2001-2002 AND IN SOUTH EASTERN BETWEEN FEBRUARY AND MAY 2003	24
HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THE CONTEXT OF ATTACKS ON TOWNS AND VILLAGES IS ONE OF THE MAIN CAUSES OF DISPLACEMENT (2002)	29
ONGOING FIGHTING IN AT LEAST 70 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY IS THE MAIN CAUSE OF DISPLACEMENT (SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 2003)	30
THE POLITICAL AND SECURITY SITUATION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE HAVE FURTHER DISPLACEMENT CONSEQUENCES IN EASTERN LIBERIA (2002-2003)	35
THE RECENT ESCALATION OF THE FIGHTING CAUSES NEW DISPLACEMENTS (AUGUST 2003)	37

AFTER THE PEACE AGREEMENT SIGNED ON AUGUST 18, NEW SKIRMISHES FORCE CIVILIANS TO FLEE (AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2003)	38
OTHER FACTORS FUELLING THE CONFLICT	39
ELEMENT OF ETHNICITY TO BE CONSIDERED IN LIBERIAN CONTEXT (2000-2003)	39
ILLICIT SMUGGLING OF DIAMONDS FROM SIERRA LEONE FUELS CONFLICT IN THE REGION (2000)	40
LIBERIAN TIMBER INDUSTRY REPORTED TO BE 'A PRIMARY SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR LIBERIA'S WAR MACHINE' (SEPTEMBER 2002)	40

POPULATION PROFILE AND FIGURES **42**

GLOBAL FIGURES	42
BETWEEN 500,000 AND 600,000 IDPS IN LIBERIA (AUGUST 2003)	42
THERE COULD BE BETWEEN 250,000 AND 450,000 IDPS IN MONROVIA (AUGUST 2003)	43
AT LEAST 80,000 NEW IDPS LIVING IN CAMPS IN 2002, SAYS MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES	44
DIFFERING ESTIMATES EXIST REGARDING THE CURRENT NUMBER OF "OLD CASELOAD" IDPS (2000-2001)	44
IDP FIGURES IN 2002 VARY GREATLY DEPENDING ON THE SOURCE – BUT COULD BE MORE THAN 200,000 BY OCTOBER (2002)	45
UN ESTIMATED THERE TO BE 750,000 IDPS AT END OF CIVIL WAR (1998)	47
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION	47
THE NUMBERS OF IDPS IN CAMPS VARY GREATLY DEPENDING ON THE DATE (AUGUST 2003)	47
IN THE CAPITAL MONROVIA, IDPS ARE SHELTERING IN VIRTUALLY IMPROVISED COLLECTIVE CENTRES (AUGUST 2003)	47
UPSURGE IN FIGHTING STARTING IN DECEMBER 2001 CAUSES SUCCESSIVE WAVES OF DISPLACEMENT (2001-2002)	48
NEARLY ALL INHABITANTS OF VOINJAMA HAVE FLED THE PROVINCIAL CENTRE (NOVEMBER 2001)	51
MAJORITY OF "OLD CASELOAD" INTERNALLY DISPLACED IN AND AROUND MONROVIA (1996-2000)	52
DISAGREGGATED FIGURES	52
45 PERCENT OF IDPS ARE CHILDREN, SAYS ACT (JANUARY 2003)	52
AID AGENCIES NOTE THAT MOST OF THE IDPS OUT OF LOFA COUNTY HAVE BEEN WOMEN AND CHILDREN (2001)	52

PATTERNS OF DISPLACEMENT **54**

GENERAL	54
POPULATION MOVEMENT DURING THE NEW ATTACKS BY REBEL MOVEMENTS (AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2003)	54
POPULATION MOVEMENTS DURING THE JULY ATTACKS ON MONROVIA (AUGUST 2003)	55
IDPS ON THE MOVE AS A RESULT OF FIGHTING AROUND BUCHANAN (JULY 2003)	56
CIVILIANS POUR IN AND OUT OF MONROVIA AS THE SITUATION BECOMES DESPERATE (JULY 2003)	57
DESPERATE IDPS NUMEROUSLY DISPLACED, SOMETIMES WITHIN THE SAME MONTH SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE 14 YEARS OLD WAR (JUNE-AUGUST 2003)	58
AS THE GOVERNMENT LOSE MANY AREAS IN THE NORTH AND SOUTH, FIGHTING MOVES TO THE SUBURBS OF THE CAPITAL MONROVIA PUSHING IDP TO THE CENTRE (JUNE 2003)	59

FIGHTING MOVES SOUTHWARDS, PUSHING MANY DISPLACED PEOPLE IN THE SAME DIRECTION (2001-2002)	60
MANY IDPs FORCED TO HIDE IN AND TREK THROUGH FORESTS TO SAFETY (2001)	63
IDP ACCOUNTS TESTIFY TO THE DIFFICULTIES FACED DURING PERIODS OF FLIGHT (2001)	64
DURING CIVIL WAR OF 1990S, IDPs FLED PRIMARILY TO MONROVIA (1995-2000)	65

PHYSICAL SECURITY & FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT **66**

PHYSICAL SECURITY **66**

ARMED GOVERNMENT FIGHTERS SOUGHT REFUGE IN IDP CAMPS, PROVOKING PANIC AMONG THE INHABITANTS (AUGUST 2003)	66
UN OCHA EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER IDP PROTECTION IN MONROVIA (AUGUST 2003)	66
IDP WOMEN TRAUMATIZED BY THE 14 YEARS WAR AS THEY HAVE CONTINUOUSLY BEEN VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE, HARASSED AND BEATEN (AUGUST 2003)	67
IDPs TARGETED AND KILLED AS FIGHTING GOES ON (JULY 2003)	69
LIBERIAN REBELS ACCUSED OF MAIMING CIVILIANS AND ARMY SOLDIERS (APRIL 2003)	71
THE UN AND THE WFP DEMAND SECURITY GUARANTEES FROM GOVERNMENT	71
FORCED CONSCRIPTION IN IDP CAMPS BY LOCAL MILITIAS LOYAL TO THE GOVERNMENT, REPORTS UN OCHA (FEBRUARY- APRIL 2003)	72
IDPs TO BE RELOCATED BECAUSE OF SECURITY REASONS (NOVEMBER 2002)	74
IDP CAMPS ARE INCREASINGLY TARGETED BY ARMED MILITIA (2002-2003)	74
LIBERIAN REBELS ATTACK REFUGEE CAMP AND ABDUCT FIVE AID AGENCY NURSES (JUNE 2002)	76
LACK OF FOOD PUSHES PEOPLE TO RISK THEIR LIVES, SAYS MSF (MAY 2002)	76
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES CARRIED OUT IN THE ARMED CONFLICT (APRIL-AUGUST 2002, MAY 2003)	77
HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH REPORTS THAT BOTH GOVERNMENT FORCES AND REBELS HAVE COMMITTED WAR CRIMES (2001-2003)	80
LIBERIAN SECURITY FORCES RESPONSIBLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AGAINST IDPs IN LIBERIA (DECEMBER 2001)	83
LURD IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AGAINST CIVILIANS (AUGUST 2001)	84
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS WIDESPREAD HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AGAINST CIVILIANS, INCLUDING SPECIFIC IDP TARGETS (AUGUST 2001)	84
IDP CHILDREN ARE FORCIBLY RECRUITED BY SECURITY FORCES AND ARMED GROUPS IN LIBERIA (OCTOBER 2001)	87
FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT	87
CIVILIANS DENIED FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT BY MODEL (AUGUST 2003)	87
IDPs, IN PARTICULAR MEN AND BOYS, HAVE BEEN DENIED FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OUT OF LOFA COUNTY AREA (2001)	88
VULNERABLE GROUPS	89
WOMEN AND CHILDREN IDPs ARE THE MAIN VICTIMS OF THE FIGHTING (APRIL 2003)	89
IDP CHILDREN SUFFER GREAT EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL STRESS AS RESULT OF ABUSES AND GENERALISED VIOLENCE (AUGUST-NOVEMBER 2001)	89

SUBSISTENCE NEEDS (HEALTH NUTRITION AND SHELTER) **90**

GENERAL	90
IN BUCHANAN IDPs FACE SEVERE HUMANITARIAN CONDITIONS (JULY-AUGUST 2003)	90

AS FIGHTING GOES ON, IDPs FORCED TO FLEE ARE IN TERRIBLE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION (AUGUST 2003)	90
LIBERIA IS SLIDING TOWARDS A HUMANITARIAN CATASTROPHE, WFP SAYS (JUNE 2003)	91
HOST COMMUNITIES' MEMBERS REGISTERED AS IDPs IN ESTABLISHED CAMPS	93
DESPERATE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AS FIGHTING CONTINUES AND RESOURCES ARE OVERSTRETCHED (MARCH 2003)	93
POVERTY DEEPENS AS FIGHTING SPREADS (2002)	95
BASIC HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OF CIVILIANS CAUGHT IN THE CONFLICT ARE NOT BEING MET, ACCORDING TO MSF (MAY 2002)	95
HEALTH	96
IDPs IN THEIR NEW INFORMAL SITES RISK INFECTIOUS DISEASES (AUGUST 2003)	96
MSF GREATLY REDUCES ITS MEDICAL CARE FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (JULY 2003)	97
AS FIGHTING RESUMES HEALTH SERVICES ARE DISRUPTED (FEBRUARY-MAY 2003)	98
IRC ASSESSMENT REVEALS CRITICAL HEALTH SITUATION OF IDPs IN CAMPS (SEPTEMBER 2002)	99
POOR HEALTH FACILITIES IN IDP CAMPS IN AND AROUND MONROVIA (2002)	100
FOOD AND NUTRITION	101
IDPs ARE THE MOST VULNERABLE IN TERMS OF FOOD SECURITY, ACTION AGAINST HUNGER SAYS (AUGUST 2003)	101
40 PERCENT OF IDP CHILDREN IN CAMPS SUFFER FROM ACUTE MALNUTRITION (AUGUST 2003)	103
MALNUTRITION RAGES IN IDPs CAMPS IN MONROVIA, ACTION AGAINST HUNGER SAYS (AUGUST 2003)	103
IN BONG COUNTY, IDPs ARE STARVING (AUGUST 2003)	103
ATTACKS ON CAMPS DISRUPT FOOD DISTRIBUTION (APRIL 2003)	104
IDPs LIVING IN HIGHLY PRECARIOUS CONDITIONS ARE DEPENDENT ON FOOD AID FOR SURVIVAL (FEBRUARY 2002)	104
SHELTER	104
THOUSANDS OF CIVILIANS ARE FORCED TO FIND ANY MAKESHIFT SHELTER AS FIGHTING GOES ON (JULY 2003)	105
FIGHTING DISRUPTED AIDS AGENCIES PLANS TO RELOCATE REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND IDPs (APRIL 2003)	105
THOUSANDS OF IDPs FROM GBARNGA AREA ARE LIVING IN MAKESHIFT CAMPS ALONG THE ROAD TO MONROVIA (JUNE 2002)	106
DESCRIPTIONS OF VARIOUS SHELTERS FOR IDPs IN DIFFERENT CAMPS AND REGIONS (JULY-OCTOBER 2001)	106
"OLD CASELOAD" IDPs IN MONROVIA EITHER LIVED IN SQUALID MAKE-SHIFT SHELTERS OF WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS (1998-2000)	107
WATER AND SANITATION	108
POOR WATER AND SANITATION FACILITIES IN ESTABLISHED IDP SHELTERS AND IRREGULAR IDP SETTLEMENTS LED TO OUTBREAKS OF WATER-BORNE DISEASES (JULY-AUGUST 2003)	108
POOR WATER AND SANITATION FACILITIES CAUSE CHOLERA IN MONROVIA AND NEARBY IDP CAMPS (2002)	109
IDPS FLEEING TO WEINSU FIND INADEQUATE WATER RESOURCES (APRIL 2002)	110
VULNERABLE GROUPS	110
 ACCESS TO EDUCATION	 111
 GENERAL	 111

THOUSANDS OF IDPS SHELTERING IN SCHOOLS COUMPOUNDS IN MONROVIA SHOULD LEAVE BY MID-SEPTEMBER, GOVERNMENT SAYS (SEPTEMBER 2003)	111
AID AGENCIES EDUCATION PLANS DISRUPTED AS FIGHTING CONTINUES (JANUARY-MAY 2003)	112
16,000 IDP CHILDREN UNABLE TO GO TO SCHOOL IN 2002, IRC SAYS	113
FEW INTERNALLY DISPLACED RECEIVE SCHOOLING (1998-2001)	113

ISSUES OF SELF-RELIANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION **115**

SELF-RELIANCE	115
CONTINUOUS POPULATION MOVEMENTS ERODE COPING MECHANISMS OF IDPS AND HOST POPULATIONS ALIKE (JULY-AUGUST 2003)	115
FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IS FRAGILE DUE TO CONTINUOUS DISPLACEMENT (2002)	115
REPEATED DISPLACEMENT HAS ERODED FAMILY AND COMMUNITY COPING MECHANISMS (2002)	116
IDPS INVOLVED IN VARIOUS SELF-HELP ACTIVITIES (OCTOBER 2001)	117
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	117
GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN SET OUT FOR IDP CAMP MANAGEMENT (OCTOBER 2001)	117
PARTICIPANTS AT NRC TRAINING AGREED THAT IDPS SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES (OCTOBER 2001)	121
NATIONAL RED CROSS TRAINING IDPS TO RUN CERTAIN CAMP FACILITIES AT TV TOWER CAMP (OCTOBER 2001)	121

ISSUES OF FAMILY UNITY, IDENTITY AND CULTURE **122**

GENERAL	122
FIGHTING IN LOFA RESULTS IN SEPARATION OF FAMILIES (DECEMBER 2000-AUGUST 2001)	122

PROPERTY ISSUES **124**

GENERAL	124
FIGHTING IN LOFA COUNTY HAS LED TO DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY AND INFRASTRUCTURE (APRIL 2001)	124
ETHNIC MANDINGOES UNABLE TO RECLAIM LAND FROM SQUATTERS (1998-2000)	125

PATTERNS OF RETURN AND RESETTLEMENT **126**

GENERAL	126
ESTABLISHMENT OF SERVICES IN CAMPS AND THEIR IMPROVEMENT IS NEEDED TO ENCOURAGE IDPS RETURN (AUGUST 2003)	126
RETURNEES TO TUBMANBURG FACE GRIM CONDITIONS (SEPTEMBER 2002)	126
REINTEGRATION OF IDPS AND REFUGEES SEEN AS MAJOR ASPECT OF PEACE BUILDING (NOVEMBER 2001)	127
SOME IDPS IN MONROVIA MADE ASSISTED MOVE HOME IN EARLY 2001 (FEBRUARY 2001)	128
NEARLY 90% OF ALL INTERNALLY DISPLACED TO HAVE RETURNED HOME BY END OF 1999	128

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS **130**

GENERAL	130
SECURITY REMAINS AN IMPORTANT PRECONDITION FOR THE HUMANITARIAN AID DISTRIBUTION TO RESUME PROPERLY (AUGUST 2003)	130
IDPs IN SALALA CAMP UNREACHABLE BECAUSE OF THE FIGHTING (AUGUST 2003)	132
MAIN INTERNATIONAL STAFF EVACUATED AS A CONSEQUENCE OF CONTINUOUS FIGHTING (JULY 2003)	133
RELIEF AGENCIES WANT PEACEKEEPERS TO TAKE OVER CONTROL OF THE PORT (AUGUST 2003)	133
THE RESUME OF FIGHTING IN MONROVIA HAS FORCED ICRC TO SCALE DOWN ITS HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES (JULY 2003)	133
FUEL SHORTAGE AND LOOTING ARE OBSTACLES TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF WATER TO IDPs (JULY 2003)	134
HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES HAVE LITTLE OR NO ACCESS TO IDP AND REFUGEE CAMPS CUT OFF BY THE FIGHTING (SINCE FEBRUARY 2003)	134
GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO ALLOW AID AGENCIES BEYOND KLAY JUNCTION (JANUARY 2002)	135
INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS	136
AN AGREEMENT REACHED TO ALLOW THE RESUMPTION OF THE HUMANITARIAN AID (AUGUST 2003)	136
<u>NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES</u>	137
GENERAL	137
STRONGER COORDINATION NEEDED TO ENSURE CONCERTED ACTION ON BEHALF OF IDPs, REPORTS OCHA IDP UNIT (MAY 2002)	137
NO AGENCY WITH AN EXCLUSIVE MANDATE FOR THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED HAS MEANT INSUFFICIENT AND IRREGULAR AID DURING PERIOD OF NATIONAL RECOVERY (1996-1998)	137
NATIONAL RESPONSE	138
GOVERNMENT CAPACITY TO FULFIL ITS IDP PROTECTION RESPONSIBILITIES HAS 'SERIOUS SHORTCOMINGS' (2002)	138
NATIONAL HUMANITARIAN TASK FORCE ESTABLISHED TO ASSIST IDPs (2002)	139
LIBERIA REFUGEE, REPATRIATION, AND RESETTLEMENT COMMISSION (LRRRC) IS NATIONAL AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR RETURN OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (1998-2001)	139
REGIONAL RESPONSE	140
A NIGERIAN-LED WEST AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE ECOMIL IN MONROVIA TO ENFORCE THE CEASEFIRE (SEPTEMBER 2003)	140
VARIOUS REGIONAL PEACE INITIATIVES TRY TO TACKLE LIBERIA'S CRISIS (2002-2003)	142
INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL RESPONSE	145
THE INTERNATIONAL CONTACT GROUP ON LIBERIA CONVENED A MEETING BETWEEN ALL PARTIES IN THE LIBERIAN CONFLICT	145
UN SECURITY COUNCIL RENEWS TWO-YEAR-OLD SANCTIONS AGAINST GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA FOR ITS SUPPORT OF RUF IN SIERRA LEONE AND PLACES 10 MONTH BAN ON IMPORT OF LIBERIAN TIMBER (2001-2003)	145
CARTER CENTER CLOSES AT END OF 2000	148
DONOR RESPONSE	148
THE UN CONSOLIDATED INTER-AGENCY APPEAL FOR LIBERIA 2003 WAS REVISED AND LAUNCHED ON 6 AUGUST 2003 (AUGUST 2003)	148
UN CONSOLIDATED INTER-AGENCY APPEAL FOR LIBERIA 2003US\$ 42,740,007MILLION – BUT RESPONSE IS POOR (2003)	149
GOVERNMENT OF GERMANY DONATED 500,000 EURO FOR INTERNAL REFUGEES IN LIBERIA	151
EUROPEAN UNION ADOPTS HUMANITARIAN AID PLAN (JANUARY 2003)	151

SELECTED UN ACTIVITIES (2002-2003)	152
UNHCR SENDS URGENT AID TO FLEEING IDPs IN CENTRAL LIBERIA (SEPTEMBER 2003)	152
UNICEF PROVIDES WIDE-RANGING ASSISTANCE TO IDPs (2003)	152
WFP PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO IDPs (2003)	153
THE UN OCHA CONDUCTED A TWO DAYS TRAINING PROGRAMME WITH THE JOINT SECURITY FORCES ON IDPs PROTECTION (MARCH 2003)	154
OCHA'S PROTECTION UNIT ORGANIZED A TRAINING ON GENERAL PROTECTION OF IDPs FOR JOURNALISTS (NOVEMBER 2002)	154
PROTECTION COALITION, CREATED BY UN OCHA'S IDP UNIT, BEGINS WORK IN LIBERIA (2002)	155
UNDP PROJECT AIMS TO STRENGTHEN PROTECTION OF IDPs AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS (AUGUST 2002)	156
FAO HELP FOR DISPLACED FARMERS (JULY 2002)	157
WHO PROVIDES WIDE-RANGING EMERGENCY AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO IDPs (MAY 2002)	157
UNICEF PROVIDES WIDE-RANGING ASSISTANCE TO IDPs (2002)	158
SELECTED ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND NGOs (2002-2003)	160
ACTIVITIES OF THE ICRC SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 2003	160
MSF INTENSIFIES ITS ASSISTANCE TO IDPs IN LIBERIA (AUGUST 2003)	161
THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE EXPANDS ITS SERVICES TO MEET LIBERIAN IDP'S NEEDS (AUGUST 2003)	162
OXFAM 'S ACTIVITIES FOR IDPs IN LIBERIA (AUGUST 2003)	164
CARITAS LIBERIA DISTRIBUTES FOOD TO IDPs IN LIBERIA (AUGUST 2003)	164
WORLD VISION ACTIVITIES (2002-2003)	165
CHURCH WORLD SERVICE (CWS) SUPPORTS PARTNER EFFORTS TO ASSIST DISPLACED FAMILIES (FEBRUARY – MAY 2003)	170
ICRC COORDINATING RED CROSS MOVEMENT RESPONSE TO VICTIMS OF DISPLACEMENTS (2002)	171
NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETY, WITH ICRC, WORKS IN IDP CAMPS (APRIL 2002)	173
IOM ASSESSES IDP SITUATION IN LIBERIA WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOPING A HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (OCTOBER 2002)	173
SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND ACTIVITIES (2002)	174
CRS ACTIVITIES (2002)	174
LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION ACTIVITIES (2002)	175
CONCERNED CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY (CCC) ASSISTING IDP VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE (2002)	176
MSF BRIEFS THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN THE MANO RIVER REGION (MAY 2002)	177
REFERENCES TO THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT	177
KNOWN REFERENCES TO THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES (AS OF NOVEMBER 2002)	177
COORDINATION	179
THE UN OCHA HAS SET UP A HUMANITARIAN INFORMATION CENTER (HIC) IN THE CAPITAL MONROVIA (SEPTEMBER 2003)	179
A TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO PREPARE A PROPOSAL FOR THE REGISTRATION OF IDPs IN AND AROUND MONROVIA (AUGUST 2003)	180
A SHELTER COORDINATION MEETING HELD ON CAMP MANAGEMENT (AUGUST 2003)	180
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	182
LIST OF SOURCES USED	184

PROFILE SUMMARY

Summary

Liberia

IDPs forced to exodus: is it for a promised land?

In spite of the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement between government and rebel forces (18 August 2003), the Liberia's 14-year-old war is continuing to cause the mass exodus of civilians. Although the capital Monrovia became slightly stable after the arrival on 4 August of the Nigerian-led West African peacekeeping mission (ECOMIL), fighting and insecurity in the rest of the country continue. Fighting between rebel movements and government forces that intensified in 1999, killed more than 200,000 people and forced more than half the country's 2.8 million population to flee their homes. After so many years of war, more than 500,000 Liberians are currently internally displaced by war. They live in precarious conditions in camps and in temporary shelters, mostly in and around Monrovia, in Bong county and around Buchanan. Fighting, killing, looting, rape, harassment, epidemic, hunger and intimidation are part of the every day life of IDPs in Liberia. These facts are enough to suggest there is a humanitarian catastrophe emerging in Liberia, which could lead to a complete disintegration of the country, unless the peace agreement is implemented fully (IRIN, 27 August 2003; Oxfam, 28 August 2003; UNHCR, 4 Sept. 2003; UN OCHA 5 Sept. 2003).

Since the late 1990s, the country has become mired in yet more fighting – this time largely between Liberian security forces and armed insurgents in the north (Liberian United for Reconciliation and Democracy, LURD), the south of the country and even in parts of the capital Monrovia. Fighting intensified in February 2003 when a new rebel movement group, Movement for Democracy in Liberia, (MODEL) appeared in the southeast, spreading the fighting to almost all parts of the country and causing tens of thousands of people to be displaced. The fighting left about four-fifths of the territory inaccessible to aid agencies, isolating many desperate IDPs from assistance. After the fall of Greenville and Harper to MODEL, it was clear that Monrovia would be the main combat zone. Indeed, between June and August 2003, fighting heightened largely on the capital. As a consequence, Monrovia's population of one million populations and an estimated 450,000 displaced people who had sought refuge in the capital, were trapped for weeks in squalid humanitarian conditions (UN OCHA, 7 August 2003; IRIN, 12 August 2003; USAID, 27 August 2003). The blockade of the capital came to a head in mid August, when under international pressure, and surrounded by rebels, President Charles Taylor stepped down and handed over power temporarily to the vice-president, Moses Blah. Moses Blah is supposed to rule until 14 October 2003, the date which the transitional government – created by the latest agreement signed on August 18 between the government and the rebels – should come into force.

Background and causes of displacement

Internal displacement in Liberia has been caused by the civil war that started in 1989. Charles Taylor, leading the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), launched an armed rebellion in the north of the country against the Samuel Doe regime. Fighting quickly reached the capital. In 1990 the Economic Community of West African States deployed a Nigerian-led peacekeeping mission (ECOMOG) to Liberia to restore order. ECOMOG's control did not extend beyond Monrovia, however, and the rest of the country

was ruled by Taylor and other self-styled freedom fighters battling over the country's rich natural resources.

Four months after intense factional fighting and looting devastated Monrovia for a second time in April 1996, the four main Liberian warlords signed the fourteenth peace agreement since the outbreak of the war. This provided for disarmament of the warring factions, followed by presidential and parliamentary elections in 1997. Charles Taylor won a landslide victory in the presidential contest, winning the legitimacy he craved through the ballot box.

However, peace in Liberia was short-lived. In 1999 armed dissidents, believed to have crossed the border from Guinea, attacked the town of Voinjama in northern Lofa County (Guinea subsequently accused Liberian forces of entering its territory and attacking border villages). Intermittent fighting – largely between Liberian security forces and the newly-formed rebel movement known as Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) – spread and intensified, forcing tens of thousands of people to flee their homes. The situation was however complicated by reports of in-fighting between various pro-government militias in the region, and military claims on all sides were often unverifiable. The conflict was centred in the gold and diamond-rich area close to where the borders of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea meet.

In December 2001, government forces launched a fresh offensive when the rebels got within 60km of the capital. Fighting followed fleeing populations from one temporary location to another. At the end of January 2002, the UN was 'deeply concerned' about reports of the forced displacement of some 10,000 IDPs from the temporary camp at Sawmill, who joined thousands of other newly displaced persons in Klay Town near Monrovia. The government restricted aid agencies to the greater Monrovia area, while blocking IDPs from entering the capital, where many people who had been previously displaced continued to shelter in unfinished and war-damaged buildings.

Sporadic but intense fighting continued throughout 2002, causing almost continuous displacement. Villages and IDP camps in Lofa and Bong counties were emptied and reportedly looted by both government and dissident forces, forcing many civilians to seek refuge in camps around Monrovia (OCHA IDP Unit, 21 May 2002).

Since the beginning of 2003, thousands of families have been continuously displaced. Heavy fighting between Liberian government troops and the LURD rebel group has spread from western and northern regions to the southwestern Atlantic port of Robertsport (IRIN 13 Feb 2003). Since February 2003, Liberian government has had to fight on two fronts. In addition to the LURD rebel group, which is reportedly supported by Guinea, the crisis in Ivory Coast brought the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) on the scene. Supported by the Ivorian government, MODEL has from February 2003 launched attacks on IDP camps on the border with Côte d'Ivoire (ACT, 12 March 2003). It has and subsequently captured large parts of southeastern Grand Gedeh, as well as the southern port town of Harper and the southern town of Plebo, forcing thousands of dispossessed civilians to flee (AFP, 20 May 2003).

Another fact that led to the intensification of fighting is the indictment of Charles Taylor in June by the Sierra Leone war crimes court. Indeed, LURD considered the indictment as an occasion to launch violent attacks in the centre of Monrovia and its suburbs. These attacks caused mass-movements of IDPs from camps outside the capital, to the centre of Monrovia and pushed some residents out of the capital (UNHCR, 10 June 2003; Catholic Relief Services, 1 Aug 2003). Since the deployment of the ECOWAS peacekeepers in August 2003, a relative calm has returned to Monrovia, although there were still reports of insecurity and targeting of civilians, including rape and looting (DEC, 11 Aug 2003; UNHCR, 4 Sept. 2003).

In the rest of the country, IDPs and other civilians were newly displaced as a consequence of government forces battling on two fronts. First near Gbarnga, in Bong County, a former stronghold of ex-President Charles Taylor but now controlled by LURD. Secondly, in Nimba County and in the southeastern Grand

Bassa County, near Roberts International airport, where the government was fighting MODEL (IRIN, 28 August 2003; UNHCR, 3 September 2003).

IDPs in disastrous humanitarian conditions: but for how long?

The worsening humanitarian situation of IDPs has been the most pressing concern since fighting intensified in 2003. During July and August 2003, Monrovia was besieged by rebel forces preventing access for humanitarian aid. Hundreds of civilians caught up in the fighting were killed. People desperately tried to find refuge in makeshift shelters across the city and more than 400,000 civilians crowded into churches, buildings, schools, homes of family members, relatives and sympathizers, and even in Monrovia's sports stadium (WFP, 25 July 2003; IRIN, 28 August 2003). As of September 2003, the humanitarian situation in Monrovia for IDPs has not yet improved. IDPs who have been staying in central Monrovia's schools are to be relocated to IDP camps on the outskirts of the capital (UNHRC, 12 Sept. 2003).

The dire situation for people displaced by the fighting of 2003, is compounded by those who remain displaced by previous fighting. Many of Liberia's displaced civilians have been living for years in camps, having been forced to leave their original homes by a civil war that has festered on since 1989. This continuous population movement has eroded IDPs coping mechanisms, as all basic needs still have to be met (UN System Standing Committee on Nutrition, 29 Aug 2003, p. 21). Furthermore, IDPs camps have become military targets, further undermining IDP's sense of security.

As a consequence of fighting in Bahn in Nimba County between government forces and MODEL, at least 8,000 civilians were reported to have fled for safety towards the town of Harbel. "The skirmishes between LURD and government troops around Gbarnga sparked off a massive influx of thousands of displaced people, walking in driving rain to seek refuge in Monrovia." (IRIN, 28 August 2003). In Totota alone, an estimated 80,000 IDPs have sought shelter in transit centres. A separate group of over 6,000 people was believed to be living in a new IDP camp between Salala and Kakata (UNHCR, 3 September 2003; UN OCHA, 5 September). Meanwhile, the fate of thousands of people in inaccessible areas of Liberia is unknown.

During their exodus, IDPs face severe food and water shortage, inadequate sanitation and medical care. After two months of intense fighting, the health of IDPs who have been huddled together in terrible conditions is worsening. There is fear of epidemics in over-crowded makeshift camps as hundreds of people are reported to be suffering from cholera. Diarrhoea is prevalent especially among women and children. A combination of accessibility and availability issues has led to food insecurity. In different camps including those around Monrovia, significant portion of children have visible signs of chronic malnutrition and anaemia.

Widespread sexual violence

In 2001, Amnesty international raised concerns about the scale of rape by both government and rebel forces against women and girls – some as young as 12 years old – that is used as a weapon of terror in the civilian population in Liberia. Currently, this phenomenon is still common in the 14 years old-war. Many of the security forces who are preying on IDPs are child soldiers as young as 12. In the stadium in Monrovia where IDPs are living in wretched conditions, out of 1,502 women who registered with Concerned Christian Community, 626 had been raped. Amnesty International in Liberia, said within a week, 40 women and 20 girls had reported being raped in the Samuel Doe Stadium. Consequently, many IDP women

are severely depressed, deeply fearful and need psychological care and trauma counselling (AI, 29 August 2003; ACT, 29 August 2003; IRIN, 27 August 2003).

Humanitarian response and constraints

International scepticism during Charles Taylor's presidency remained high following his election in 1997 until his departure in August 2003. Taylor's government has been accused of increasing human rights violations at home, as well as backing armed insurgencies in neighbouring countries. The UN Security Council tightened an arms embargo on Liberia in March 2001 to curb arms trafficking to the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Sierra Leone, and two months later imposed further sanctions, including travel restrictions on senior government officials and a ban on diamond exports. In May 2003, the Security Council renewed the sanctions and placed a 10-month ban on the import of Liberian timber. Taylor is also accused of war crimes in Sierra Leone.

As a result, the international community has been discouraged from providing assistance to Liberia. At a time when the humanitarian situation on the ground was at its worst and fighting had spread to almost all the Liberian territory, the lack of donor support constitutes a major obstacle to the delivery of assistance to an increased number of destitute persons. As of July 2003, only 22 percent of the 2003 UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal (CAP) had been funded (excluding the food aid sector). On August 6, the UN launched a Revised Appeal amounting to 69 million USD. The Revised Appeal aims to cater for an estimated 200,000 families or 1,000,000 persons, covering the period July to December 2003 (UN, August 2003; UN OCHA, 6 August 2003).

International humanitarian operations are still hampered not only by a lack of resources, but also by the worsening security situation in the country that leads to a limited access to many areas (UNHCR, 9 Sept 2003). In June 2003, most international humanitarian personnel evacuated. Since the end of August 2003, few humanitarian organisations have returned because facing security problems and limited access to IDPs. Despite the fact that ECOMIL forces are limited in numbers, many aid agencies are requesting their presence in other cities and around IDP camps to secure them. In August WFP and other NGOs reported that IDP camps outside of Monrovia and the surrounding area have been inaccessible since June, while the humanitarian situation there is catastrophic (UN OCHA, 26 August 2003; USAID, 27 August 2003; IRIN, 28 August 2003; UNHCR, 9 Sept 2003).

The peace agreement signed in August has given hope to Liberians plagued by years of internal strife. But the peace achieved is fragile and it is, for the time being, not total. In case the transitional government that will take over in October is unable to improve the situation of the average citizen throughout Liberia and restore faith in the political process, the hardship will endure and fighting will most likely continue. The international community has a vital role to play. Increases in both human and financial resources will be crucial if Liberia is to remain on the road to peace. Failure to follow up on the initial engagement, however, will only plunge the country, and the already unstable region, once again into chaos.

CAUSES AND BACKGROUND OF DISPLACEMENT

Background to the conflict

A chronology of significant events (1980-2003)

1980: Samuel Doe leads military coup ending 150 years of domination by Americo Liberians.

1980-1990: Doe's regime (supported by the United States) marked by violence and suppression of repeated coup attempts.

1989: NPFL under the leadership of Charles Taylor commences rebellion in northern Liberia (December).

1990: NPFL reaches Monrovia but is repelled by ECOMOG (Economic Community Monitoring Group, ECOWAS) peacekeeping force (August). Doe killed. Interim Government of National Unity (IGNU) installed under Amost Sawyer.

1991: First peace talks fail. Yamoussoukro (Cote d'Ivoire) talks begin. United Liberation Movement for Democracy (ULIMO) begins operations against NPFL.

1992: NPFL launches new attack on Monrovia, repulsed by ECOMOG (October). UN secretary-general appoints special representative (November).

1993: New peace agreement signed at Cotonou, Benin (July). Disarmament fails amid increased factional fighting. UN Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) created and deployed.

1994: Sawyer resigns (March). IGNU replaced by Liberian National Transitional Government (LNTG). New peace process started in Akosombo, Ghana (September) under President Jerry Rawlings.

1995: Continuation of fighting. New peace accord signed at Abuja, Nigeria (August). LNTG II installed. Wider ECOMOG deployment halted by renewed fighting.

1996: Renewed factional fighting leads to all-out conflict in Monrovia (April). ECOMOG does not intervene. Fresh peace accord signed in Abuja (August). New timetable for disarmament (November) and elections (May 1997) adopted.

(Scott 1998, pp. 100-101)

"Border fighting

1999 January - Ghana and Nigeria accuse Liberia of supporting Revolutionary United Front rebels in Sierra Leone. Britain and the US threaten to suspend international aid to Liberia.

1999 April - Rebel forces thought to have crossed from Guinea attack the town of Voinjama. Subsequent fighting leads to the displacement of more than 25,000 people.

1999 September - Guinea accuses Liberian forces of entering its territory and attacking border villages.

2000 July - The US threatens to impose sanctions on Liberia unless it curtails its ties with Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front.

2000 September - Liberian forces launch "massive offensive" against rebels in the north. Liberia [sic!] accuses Guinean troops of shelling border villages." (BBC, January 10, 2001, "TIMELINE LIBERIA")

2001 May - UN Security Council reimposes arms embargo to punish Taylor for trading weapons for diamonds from rebels in Sierra Leone.

2002 mid year - the conflict had intensified and had crept closer to Monrovia. There were fears that it could reignite fighting in Sierra Leone. (BBC, 29 April 2003)

2003 April – New rebel movement called Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) launched attacks against the government forces and makes gains in the southeast of Liberia

2003 June - The prosecutor of a United Nations-backed tribunal in Sierra Leone indicted Charles Taylor for war crimes in Sierra Leone while he was taking part to peace talks in Ghana.

2003 August 4 – “The first Nigerian troops arrived in Liberia on Monday as the vanguard of a West African-led peacekeeping force that will try to enforce a ceasefire between the government and two rebel groups, clearing the way for relief agencies to operate safely in the war-torn country.” (UN OCHA, 4 August).

2003 August 11- Liberia's President Charles Taylor stepped down in a ceremony in the capital Monrovia on Monday with Vice President Moses Blah ready to rule until October 14 before handing over to an interim administration (Reuters, 11 August 2003).

2003 August 18- Signing of a comprehensive peace agreement between the Liberian government, the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) and the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL).

War continued throughout 1990s despite numerous peace attempts (1997-2000)

- Over ten cease-fire agreements were signed and broken during period of war

"Over 10 cease fire agreements were signed and broken before the final 'Abuja Agreement' was reached in November 1996." (IRC 2000)

"In November 1990, a fragile cease-fire was undertaken and lasted for almost 2 years. Upon the intervention of the United Liberation Movement for a Democratic Liberia (ULIMO) troops based in Sierra Leone, the N.P.F.L. responded by launching a violent attack on Monrovia in October 1992.

During 1993 and 1994 a series of cease-fire agreements were signed, but they were always broken, sometimes even before coming into effect. The peace agreement signed between the different factions in August 1995 seemed promising. Yet, the fighting resumed in April 1996 and violent battles between the different factions took place in Monrovia for 7 weeks." (ACF 2000)

"Numerous attempts were made at the regional level to resolve the conflict through peaceful means. ECOWAS brokered a series of peace agreements, including the Yamoussoukro Accord of October 1991, the Cotonou Agreement of July 1993, the Akosombo Agreement of September 1994, the Accra Agreement of December 1994 and the Abuja Agreement of August 1995, which provided for a cease-fire, disarmament and elections to be held in August 1996." (UNSG 12 September 1997, para. 24)

Monrovia was engulfed by violence in April 1996

- Monrovia is engulfed by violence for several weeks in April 1996
- 3,000 killed and over 300,000 forced to flee their homes
- Non-essential humanitarian personnel evacuated and aid looted

"1996 has been a year marked by a renewal of violence, especially in Monrovia, which had until then been considered a haven of peace. The fighting began on 6 April when the provisional authorities tried to arrest the leader of one of the factions, Roosevelt Johnson, who is a suspected accomplice in a murder case.

Starting on 6 April and for several weeks, Monrovia was engulfed by violence and horror. Stores were looted. Offices and warehouses of the humanitarian agencies were sacked, forcing them to evacuate all non-essential personnel. Nothing seemed to stop the spiral of violence. Not even an orphanage was spared. On 30 April armed men assaulted and looted the Vahun Children's Center, an orphanage run jointly by a local agency and UNHCR, where 75 unaccompanied Sierra Leonean children and some 20 Liberian orphans were sheltered.

The Ministry of Health building that sheltered 1,200 Sierra Leonean refugees and 4,300 displaced Liberians were seized by armed men, who made it their barracks. Refugees and displaced persons fled and ended up crammed in a former UNICEF warehouse that had been looted at the onset of the hostilities and had no water or toilet facilities.

Part of the population sought refuge in the compound of the United States Embassy, protected by American soldiers and located in the residential district of Mamba Point. Thousands of others tried to leave Monrovia, a city at the mercy of drugged teen-agers, their bodies wound with amulets in a mad search for invincibility." (Kpatindé 1996, "1996 in Review", paras. 3-6)

"The 6 April crisis marked yet another tragic episode in the more than six-year-old conflict. It is estimated that 46 percent of Monrovia's population, some 361,880 persons, were displaced and some 3,000 persons killed in the fighting." (DHA 23 October 1996, sect. 2.3)

Abuja Peace Agreement finally reached in August 1996 and president elected in 1997

- Peace agreement reached once ECOMOG re-asserts control over Monrovia
- Agreement calls for disarmament, demobilization, and national elections
- Presidential elections conducted in atmosphere of intimidation
- Charles Taylor wins presidency

"The fighting that erupted in Monrovia on 6 April 1996 paralysed the Abuja peace process launched in August 1995. The April crisis, characterised by widespread looting and a complete breakdown of law and order, continued until the Military Observer Group of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOMOG) peace-keeping force asserted a tenuous control over the city in late May.

Intensive diplomacy by various parties to put the peace process back on track culminated in the Abuja Agreement of 17 August 1996, reached exactly one year after the Abuja Agreement of 1995." (DHA 23 October 1996, sect. 2.1)

"The agreement provides for disarmament under the aegis of the Economic Community of West African States' Monitoring Group, demobilization and reintegration of fighters with the help of the United Nations and the donor community and national elections by May 31, 1997." (USAID 1998, FY 1998 Congressional Presentation, "The Development Challenge")

"In July 1997 Taylor won the presidency, and his National Patriotic Party (NPP) won three-quarters of the seats in the Congress, in elections that were administratively free and transparent, but were conducted in an atmosphere of intimidation, as most voters believed that Taylor's forces would resume fighting if Taylor were to lose. The leaders of the former warring factions, including Taylor, did not make any serious attempt to reconcile their differences. In his first year in office, Taylor restored the trappings and ceremony customarily associated with the presidency, but his NPP Government did not pass any significant legislation. The judiciary is subject to political influence, economic pressure, and corruption." (US DOS 26 February 1999, para. 1)

Liberian dissidents operating out of Guinea are blamed for incursions and instability from 1999-2001

- Liberian rebels operating from Guinea carry out attacks in Lofa County
- Liberian government expels ambassadors, closes borders, March 2001
- Liberian National Security Adviser accused the Guinean army and a Sierra Leonean militia of supporting rebel forces fighting in northern Lofa County in March/April 2001
- LURD takes responsibility for attacks since mid-2000

General:

"In April and August 1999, Liberian rebels operating from neighboring Guinea carried out attacks in Lofa County, northern Liberia. Although not confirmed, the rebel attacks were thought to be led by former fighters from the ULIMO-K faction who were largely ethnic Mandingos. The fighting resulted in civilian deaths and displacement, forcing thousands of Liberians and Sierra Leonean refugees to flee.

In July 2000, another invasion was launched by a group calling itself Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) from the Guinea border into Liberia, resulting in fighting and displacement yet again in Lofa County. These periodic eruptions of violence contributed to the continuing destabilization of the subregion, and within Liberia assumed an ethnic dimension as the government indiscriminately blamed members of the Krahn and Mandingo communities for the attacks." (HRW 2000, Human Rights Developments)

Liberian government expels ambassadors, closes borders (March 2001)

"President Charles Taylor closed Liberia's border with Sierra Leone at midnight on Monday [19 March 2001] and ordered the ambassadors of that country and Guinea to leave within three days, diplomatic sources said.

The government said its measure followed serious incidents of border insecurity. It did not elaborate, diplomatic sources in Monrovia told IRIN. However, the city's newspapers reported on Tuesday that the envoys, Kemoh Salia-Bao and Baba Soare of Sierra Leone and Guinea, were declared unwelcome because of what the government said were "acts incompatible with their status." (IRIN-WA 20 March 2001)

Liberian National Security Adviser accused the Guinean army and a Sierra Leonean militia of supporting rebel forces (March/April 2001)

"[Following renewed fighting in Lofa County in March 2001] the Liberian government has accused the Guinean army and a Sierra Leonean militia of supporting rebel forces fighting in northern Lofa County, the BBC reported on Sunday [29 April 2001].

Liberian National Security Adviser Lewis Brown said that in the past few days "serious artillery and aerial support from Guinea" had been used against Liberian troops. He said intelligence reports confirmed that the Kamajors, a militia force loyal to the Sierra Leonean government, had teamed up with Liberian dissident forces to provide ground support. There has been no independent confirmation of the minister's claims, the BBC said." (IRIN-WA 30 April 2001)

Attacks since mid-2000 claimed by LURD:

"The exact identity of the armed opposition groups -- and their leaders -- which have been attacking Liberia from Guinea since 1999 has been difficult to establish. However, since the beginning of the latest round of incursions in July 2000, attacks on Liberian territory have been claimed by a group called the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD). The LURD is reportedly composed of former fighters from the civil war of 1989 to 1996, many of whom became refugees in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire after the end of the war." (AI 1 August 2001)

"The Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebel group, with back bases in neighbouring Guinea, is leading the fighting in Lofa County.

The LURD is thought to be led by former chief of staff Charles Juju, who served in the regime of Samuel Doe, assassinated in 1990 after Taylor launched an insurgency." (AFP 21 November 2001)

Liberian government declares state of emergency (February 2002)

- President Taylor declares state of emergency on 8 February 2002
- Declaration follows shooting at Klay Junction, less than 50km from Monrovia, and the area becomes inaccessible to aid agencies
- The Liberian government blames its failure to defeat the rebels on the UN arms embargo on the country

"Liberian President Charles Taylor declared a state of emergency with immediate effect on Friday after shooting was reported close to the capital, Monrovia, Information Minister Reginald Goodridge said. Speaking on CNN, Goodridge said the measure was taken because of 'imminent danger' in Liberia as a result of the activity of armed rebels.

On Thursday, shooting had been heard at Klay Junction, a crossroads about 50 km north of the capital, on Thursday and internally displaced people (IDPs) fled the area, the head of delegation of Medecins sans Frontieres-France in Monrovia, Giuseppe Scollo, told IRIN on Friday. 'We have no more access to the area,' he said.

The IDPs had moved south to Klay following a rebel attack nearly two weeks ago near a temporary IDP camp at Sawmill, some 100 km north of Monrovia. Scollo said there were around 10,000 IDPs at Klay a few days ago, but we have no idea how many there are now,' he said.

Goodridge claimed on Friday that 'the dissidents have received sanctuary and an unlimited supply of weapons in Guinea'. Taylor has often accused the Guinean government of harbouring dissidents on their territory, a charge denied by Conakry.

Defence Minister Daniel Chea recently told reporters that government forces were hard pressed to defeat the rebels because of an international ban on weapon sales to Liberia, according to recent media reports. He was quoted as saying that unless the embargo was lifted, the rebels could defeat the army within one month.

There were media reports on Friday that some people were trying to leave Monrovia. However, Goodridge said the legislature was operating normally, while Scollo said it was business as usual in the city." (IRIN, 8 February 2002)

President Taylor lifted the state of emergency in September 2002. [Click here](#) for details.

Allegations that upsurge in fighting has been 'stage-managed' (February 2002)

- Liberian journalists are among many who believe that the government may have engineered or manipulated the upsurge in fighting
- Sceptics charge that the government is trying to create another humanitarian crisis in order to win international sympathy
- President Taylor continues to blame the army's inability to defeat the rebels on UN sanctions

"Liberian journalists on Monday called on President Charles Taylor to lift the state of emergency he imposed on 8 February, saying there was growing suspicion that the unfolding humanitarian crisis in the country was being stage-managed.

The journalists, in a statement by the Association of Liberian Journalists in the Americas (ALJA), said they were disturbed by press reports that the population displacement and heightened insecurity that preceded the declaration of the state of emergency, might have been triggered by exchanges of gunfire between government troops.

'We hope that this crisis is not being orchestrated, at the cost of innocent lives, to serve the political interests of Mr. Taylor or the LURD ((Liberia United for Reconciliation and Development) rebels,' ALJA said.

'There are growing suspicions,' it added, 'that the unfolding humanitarian catastrophe is being stage-managed, in an attempt to force the United Nations to lift the arms embargo and sanctions imposed on Liberia. The LURD is also suspected of being in complicity with (President Charles) Taylor in creating a sense of chaos.'

The journalists appealed to the UN to retain the arms embargo and other sanctions against Liberia." (IRIN, 18 February 2002)

"Could Liberia's rulers really be so diabolical as to fake rebel attacks and drive thousands from their homes to win international sympathy and increase their powers?

Conspiracy theories flew more thickly than the mosquitoes in the West African country's capital on Thursday, nearly a week after President Charles Taylor declared a state of emergency.

'To my eye there is more to this than there seems,' said one Western diplomat with long experience in Liberia.

'The events appear to play right into Taylor's hands. It is also very unclear what is happening on the ground and who was behind whatever happened at Kley junction.'

Shooting at Kley junction in an apparent rebel attack a week ago, just 22 miles from Monrovia, was a turning point in the conflict with the rebels, terrifying Liberians and leading to the swift declaration of a state of emergency.

But there is far from solid evidence for the suspicions of many diplomats and aid workers that the latest crisis has been partly engineered and manipulated by the pariah state, under United Nations sanctions for backing war in Sierra Leone.

Liberia's government, so the theory goes, might have had its own soldiers carry out the attack -- which left several people dead -- to create a humanitarian crisis on the doorstep of Monrovia that would draw the eyes and sympathy of the world.

That might be to Liberia's advantage in a review of sanctions imposed over the war in Sierra Leone, which was declared over last month. The state of emergency might also give Taylor a freer hand ahead of elections due next year." (Reuters, 14 February 2002)

Liberian government announced the presidential elections will be held in October 2003 despite the war (January 2003)

- Although there are fears that continued fighting between LURD, MODEL rebels could pose threat to democratic electoral process the government wants to hold elections on 14 October
- IDPs from war affected counties petitioned Liberian's Supreme Court to postpone the elections

"In January 2003 the Liberian government announced the timetable for this year's presidential elections with the actual election to be held on 14 October. However, there are fears that continued fighting between Liberian government forces and LURD (Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy) rebels continues to pose a threat to the pending democratic and electoral process. It is hoped that the ECOWAS1 announcement on 10th February 2003 that LURD rebels have agreed to a dialogue with the government of Liberia will hold true. The venue and dates for talks had not been decided at the time of writing." (Save the Children Fund, 3 April 2003)

"Internally displaced Liberians (IDPs) from three war-affected counties in western Liberia on Monday petitioned Liberia's Supreme Court to postpone general and presidential elections due on 14 October, unless a national census is conducted.

Lofa, close to Guinea and Sierra Leone, remains the stronghold of LURD rebels, while most of Bomi and Grand Cape Mount are occupied by soldiers with most civilians having fled into IDP camps.

Representing the IDPs, legal counsel Jenkins Scott, said in the petition that a national census was necessary to verify eligible voters and for demarcation of electoral constituencies. Given the current war situation in their counties, Scott said, the IDPs could be deprived of the right to register in their constituencies and vote.

If the polls went ahead without a national census, they could be marred by controversies since some IDPs would not be accessible to candidates, the IDPs said, adding that the Supreme Court should compel the Liberian parliament to call for a census before elections.

The Supreme Court is expected to meet this month to study the petition and give its opinion.

On 2 January, the chairman of the Elections Commission, Paul Guah, ruled out a fresh census saying the commission would rely on the voters' registration. President Charles Taylor also told political parties leaders in Monrovia that a census would not be possible before elections.

Pressure groups like the Movement for Democracy and Elections and the Liberian Society Movement, have however said a national census was one of the requirements for free, fair and transparent elections. On Thursday, the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission also expressed concern over the lack of "enabling security environment for the conduct of a free, fair, transparent and tension-free general and presidential elections".

Liberia last conducted a national census in 1984. The population was 2.5 million. Since then the country has experienced extensive wars leading to displacement of hundreds of thousands its people." (IRIN 22 Jan 2003)

Liberian president orders probe into aid workers killings (March 2003)

- With no protection, the future capacity of the international community to assist Liberian people is at risk
- The defence ministry to conduct an investigation into the ADRA workers' death in collaboration with local and international agencies

"Liberian President Charles Taylor has ordered a probe into the deaths of three aid workers, killed in fighting last month near the lawless border with Ivory Coast, the government said in a statement on Monday.

The bodies of two Liberians and one Norwegian working for the US-based Adventist Relief and Development Agency (ADRA) were found around a week after they went missing during fighting in Toe, a town in southeastern Liberia, on February 28.

Monrovia on Monday issued an official statement ordering the defence ministry to conduct an investigation into the ADRA workers' deaths in collaboration with local and international agencies. The order came less than 72 hours after the US embassy and the offices of the European Union in Monrovia issued a joint statement calling for a probe into the murders. The statement called on the government to investigate "these crimes aggressively until the perpetrators are caught and brought to justice".

It also emphasised "the absolute necessity" for the Liberian government to protect "employees of non-governmental organisations who are in Liberia to help the people of the country". "Without assistance of this kind the government puts at risk the future capacity of the international community to provide support to the Liberian people," it said. ADRA, which is a partner of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), is responsible for constructing camps in Liberia for refugees from the six-month war in neighbouring Ivory Coast. [...]

Monrovia's assertion that the three ADRA aid workers had died in an ambush by Liberian rebels has been called into question. The rebels immediately rejected the accusation, saying they did not even operate in southeastern Liberia.

Taylor's government has invited the EU, the UN office in Liberia, the Female Lawyers Association of Liberia, the National Bar Association and the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission to participate in the investigation.

Taylor's statement condemned the murder of innocent civilians, including the three aid workers, and reassured humanitarian workers of Monrovia's commitment to their safety.

The Liberian leader urged all aid workers to cooperate fully with government agencies "as they travel through war zones to carry out their functions". (Agence France Press, 17 March 2003)

New rebel movement called Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) operates in south eastern Liberia (Since April 2003)

- MODEL has forced civilians to flee as a consequence of their capture of Liberia's main timber export ports at Harper and Pleebo.
- Thousands of people in Liberia's coastal city of Greenville flee after news reached Greenville that an unknown rebel group calling itself Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) had advanced to the nearby areas in Sinoe County.

"Liberian President Charles Taylor has ordered a probe into the deaths of three aid workers, killed in fighting last month near the lawless border with Ivory Coast, the government said in a statement on Monday.

The bodies of two Liberians and one Norwegian working for the US-based Adventist Relief and Development Agency (ADRA) were found around a week after they went missing during fighting in Toe, a town in southeastern Liberia, on February 28.

Monrovia on Monday issued an official statement ordering the defence ministry to conduct an investigation into the ADRA workers' deaths in collaboration with local and international agencies. The order came less than 72 hours after the US embassy and the offices of the European Union in Monrovia issued a joint statement calling for a probe into the murders. The statement called on the government to investigate "these crimes aggressively until the perpetrators are caught and brought to justice".

It also emphasised "the absolute necessity" for the Liberian government to protect "employees of non-governmental organisations who are in Liberia to help the people of the country". "Without assistance of this kind the government puts at risk the future capacity of the international community to provide support to the Liberian people," it said. ADRA, which is a partner of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), is responsible for constructing camps in Liberia for refugees from the six-month war in neighbouring Ivory Coast. [...]

Monrovia's assertion that the three ADRA aid workers had died in an ambush by Liberian rebels has been called into question. The rebels immediately rejected the accusation, saying they did not even operate in southeastern Liberia.

Taylor's government has invited the EU, the UN office in Liberia, the Female Lawyers Association of Liberia, the National Bar Association and the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission to participate in the investigation.

Taylor's statement condemned the murder of innocent civilians, including the three aid workers, and reassured humanitarian workers of Monrovia's commitment to their safety.

The Liberian leader urged all aid workers to cooperate fully with government agencies "as they travel through war zones to carry out their functions". (Agence France Press, 17 March 2003)

ECOWAS leads efforts to enforce the cease-fire and clear the way for humanitarian aid to resume in Liberia (August 2003)

- The Nigerian troops constitute the vanguard elements of the Multinational Force authorized by the Security Council
- The deployment of the troops will enable the return of aid workers in Monrovia

“With the first contingent of Nigerian peacekeepers now on the ground in Liberia, United Nations and other relief agencies are taking advantage of a lull in the violence to rush food and medical supplies to hundreds of thousands of desperate and hungry people crowding the streets of war-ravaged Monrovia.

With the support of the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), the airlift of Nigerian troops and equipment -- the vanguard elements of the Multinational Force authorized last Friday by the Security Council -- continued today. Following the arrival of 184 troops yesterday, UNAMSIL said that by mid-afternoon today, 152 more Nigerian soldiers, two Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs), one land rover and one day's supply of rations had been moved from Sierra Leone to Liberia.

More troops are expected in the coming days as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) leads the efforts on the ground to enforce a cease-fire and clear the way for the distribution of food and medicine to hundreds of thousands of people uprooted by fighting between forces loyal to President Charles Taylor and rebel factions, the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) and the Movement for Democracy and Elections in Liberia (MODEL).

UN agencies have welcomed the arrival of the peacekeepers in the hope that the deployment will enable the return of aid workers and help stave off the deepening humanitarian crises in Monrovia, where hundreds of thousands of people, including a patchwork of refugees from Sierra Leone and internally displaced persons (IDPs), are living in the streets without adequate food, shelter or sanitation.” (UN News Service, 5 August 2003)

“To date, two battalions comprising approximately 1,500 Nigerian troops have entered Liberia. A third battalion composed of approximately 700 troops from Ghana, Mali, and Senegal is expected to deploy during the week of August 25. A fourth battalion is expected between August 29 and September 5, for a total of approximately 3,000 ECOMIL troops. A U.N. peace-keeping force is scheduled to replace the ECOMIL force in October 2003.” (UN OCHA, 4 August 2003)

Main causes of displacement

Hundreds of thousands of civilians were forced to flee their homes during country's civil war (1989-1997)

- Liberians began to flee their homes with onset of civil war in 1989
- All warring factions were responsible for displacement of local populations
- April 1996 crisis caused thousands more to flee homes in Monrovia

“Like the 750,000 Liberian refugees who managed to flee to Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, the troubles of Liberia’s internally displaced began in December 1989, when the NPFL rebels took up arms to overthrow the regime of Samuel K. Doe. Caught in the crossfire, many civilians had no option but to head for neighboring countries – especially Cote d’Ivoire and Guinea – or to the capital, which was considered a safe haven once the ECOMOG troops had established control there in 1990. Subsequently, factions proliferated, essentially along ethnic lines, and anarchy reigned, forcing an ever-increasing number of Liberians to flee first to Monrovia and then on to the neighboring countries.” (Kpatindé 1996, "Internally Displaced Persons", para. 8)

"The warring factions have terrorized the local population. Fighters have mutilated captives, using their victims' intestines to cordon off areas newly controlled by the victorious group. They have cut up human bodies and scattered them around villages. Many areas have passed under the control of successive warring factions and Liberia has effectively become a series of competing fiefdoms ruled by faction leaders.

[...]

All parties to the continuing conflict committed gross human rights abuses. Fighters from all the warring factions tortured and deliberately killed unarmed civilians suspected of opposing them, as they seized territory or raided another group's territory. All armed groups were responsible for deliberate and arbitrary killings of civilians, although in many cases it was not possible to establish which group was responsible. (AI 20 June 1997, "Liberian Tragedy")

"Tens of thousands of Liberians were killed during the war and almost half the country's population displaced. Despite the presence of regional peacekeepers and a United Nations military observer mission, fighting resumed numerous times during the war, and the number of factions proliferated over the years. All the factions, including Charles Taylor's faction, were responsible for terrorizing the local populations in order to loot and to discourage support for rival factions. Widespread atrocities against civilians were committed including killings, torture, forced labor, and extortion." (HRW 17 November 1997, para. 4)

Many thousands of persons were forced to flee Monrovia in 1996:

"Prior to the 6 April [1996] fighting there were approximately 750,000 IDPs in Liberia. Of these, an estimated 300,000 were located in shelters in and around Monrovia. The 6 April fighting has exacerbated the situation. Approximately 46 percent, some 361,880, of the estimated 780,000 inhabitants of Monrovia had to abandon their homes. Of these, 30 percent are in shelters and 17 percent have fled the greater Monrovia area. These populations are completely dependent on the international community for all their basic needs." (DHA 23 October 1996, sect. 4.5)

"Renewed violence in April [1996] pushed an estimated 300,000 persons from their homes in Monrovia and devastated the morale of many Liberians. Families fled to Monrovia's schools, warehouses, dilapidated government buildings, and to private homes in safer parts of the city. Up to 20,000 fled to a Monrovia military base that subsequently came under attack. Another 20,000 took refuge in the U.S. embassy's residential compound. Outside Monrovia, tens of thousands fled to the central Liberian town of Gbarnga in search of safety." (USCR 1997, p. 77)

Thousands of civilians newly displaced with resurgence of violence in northern Lofa County in 2000 (July-October 2000)

- Armed insurgency and gun battles forces people to flee (July 2000)
- Shelling of Zorzor district by Guinean security forces resulted in 1,500 IDPs fleeing the war zone
- Mass movement was started by instructions from military that women and children leave the areas
- On October 7th 2000, Zorzor town came under attack for the second time in the space of 2 weeks

"In July 2000, armed insurgency and sporadic gun battles occurred at the border towns of Voinjama in Lofa County, causing loss of life, the destruction of property, the looting of homes and the displacement of over 45,000 persons to Salayea District, close to Bong County, in Upper Lofa and Camp Antheil in Lower Lofa Counties. Recently, the government announced the expulsion of the armed insurgents. In October 2000, ethnic violence erupted between the Mandingos and Mano people in Nimba County. Several people were injured, and houses and vehicles were destroyed." (IFRC 20 February 2001)

"On 8 July [2000], the Government of Liberia reported that an armed group of Liberian dissidents operating from neighbouring Guinea, attacked the provincial town of Voinjama in Lofa county (approximately 384 kms north of the capital of Monrovia). Thousands of civilians fled the town into the bush and nearby towns and villages. Accusations by both sides over border raids launched by unidentified gunmen have created poor diplomatic relations between the two countries. President Lansana Conte of Guinea has accused Liberians of involvement in cross-border attacks on Guinean villages, while Liberia accuses Guinea of harbouring insurgents who are fighting government forces in northern Liberia.

Most recently, the Government has reported the shelling of Zorzor district by Guinean security forces. Reports say that the incident has resulted in some casualties of IDPs from Voinjama, who had taken refuge in Zorzor town. Over 1,500 IDPs have fled the war zone, traveling (sic!) through the bush to towns as far away as Camp Anthe (125 kms from Voinjama) in Lower Lofa County." (IFRC 19 October 2000)

"Liberian government officials claimed that an incursion by armed dissidents in July took control of several towns in northern Liberia's Upper Lofa County and forced 30,000 people to flee their villages. The government declared a state of emergency in the county in mid-July." (USCR 28 August 2000, para. 2)

The independent Inquirer newspaper said that hundreds of residents were fleeing Zorzor, 210 kilometres (130 miles) northeast of Monrovia, following the attack Saturday [8 October 2000], saying the town was being shelled from the Liberian border town of Yeala, eight kilometers (five miles) away.

[...]

The people were reported to be fleeing to the regional town of Gbarnga, 150 kilometres (95 miles) east of Monrovia." (AFP 9 October 2000)

"The relief workers also said the mass movement of the people was started by instructions from military personnel in Zorzor and surrounding towns and villages, that women and children leave the areas in the wake of the attack." (PANA 10 October 2000)

"On October 7th [2000] Zorzor town came under attack for the second time in the space of 2 weeks. An estimated 30,000 civilians deserted the town of Zorzor after it was shelled by rebel forces believed to be operating from Guinea. The shelling has forced civilians to head towards the town of Gbarnga, although many are now staying in towns between Zorzor and Gbarnga in neighbouring Bong County and are in need of food, shelter and sanitation facilities. It seems that only those who have family to stay with have been permitted to enter Gbarnga." (SCF 24 November 2000, Current Situation)

Further displacements accompany intensification of violence in northern Liberia in 2001-2002 and in south eastern between February and May 2003

- Fighting in Lofa County between Liberian forces and dissidents on the border with Guinea breaks out in February 2001; thousands of civilians flee
- In July 2001, fighting was ongoing in Lofa, and Liberians were still moving southwards as a result of the fighting
- By end of year, civilians were still fleeing their homes in northern Liberia for relative safety of IDP camps
- In 2002, fighting spreads southwards and dangerously close to the capital, Monrovia
- Between February and May 2003 IDPs from 11 camps out of 14 have been displaced by attacks on their camps

Intermittent fighting in Liberia has continued throughout 2002. For more details of population movements resulting from the fighting, and their locations, see the sections on Geographical Distribution and Patterns of Displacement.

February 2001:

"In February 2001, the latest fighting erupted in Kolahun District in Lofa [which] [...] produced a new wave of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

[...]

[...] an estimated 150,000 persons are on the run for their lives, most of them having abandoned the major towns and took refuge in remote villages, running from the fighting forces. Homes of civilians fleeing the fighting have been completely looted; while some homes have been burned." (ACT, Appeal Liberia 30 March 2001)

March 2001:

"Liberian Defence Minister Daniel Chea on Monday [5 March 2001] said rebels had seized the key northern town of Voinjama, which lies near the Guinean border.

Chea made the remarks to AFP after unconfirmed reports reached the Liberian capital that "dissidents" had hoisted a flag in Voinjama, about 260 kilometres (160 miles) north of Monrovia.

[...]

The defense minister said between 20,000 and 30,000 civilians displaced by the fighting were moving in large groups away from the conflict area." (AFP, 5 March 2001)

"In March, fighting between dissidents and government forces moved further southwards towards Tarvey, Gbapolu County. The latest reports of fighting come from Gelmah to the south of Kolahun. This movement southwards has caused previously internally displaced people (IDPs) to flee again further south. Almost all of the 2,000 registered IDPs who were in Tarvey until recently, left there at the end of March, some of them moving on foot further south to Amtel and the rest fleeing into the bush." (SCF, 6 April 2001)

April 2001:

"Thousands of civilians have been fleeing heavy fighting between government troops and insurgents in upper Lofa County, northern Liberia, Defence Minister Daniel Chea told reporters on Wednesday. He said the civilians were going to lower Lofa County.

Chea described the fighting - in Foya and Kolahun - as serious but denied claims that the insurgents, who call themselves Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy, had seized control of a vast swathe of territory. Chea said government troops still controlled the provincial towns of Voinjama, Vahun and Zorzor. He blamed the cross-border attacks on Guinea, which has made similar charges against Liberia." (IRIN-WA, 6 April 2001)

"Liberian authorities said Wednesday [25 April 2001] that fighting in northern Lofa County had stepped up with "dissidents" occupying five key border towns.

Information Minister Reginald Goodrich told reporters the government had launched simultaneous counter-attacks on the towns of Foya, Kolahun, Vahun, Voinjama and Zorzor in a bid to recapture them.

He said the fighting had displaced about 60,000 people according to the Liberia refugee agency.

The pro-government Guardian newspaper said fighting had intensified in the provincial capital Voinjama since sports minister Francois Massaquoi was killed there last week.

"Government troops, apparently troubled by the killing of the late youth and sports minister, have launched an all-out counter-attack aimed at regaining control of Voinjama," the paper said Wednesday.

Reports reaching Monrovia say the fighting in northern Liberia is spreading westwards.

An escapee who identified himself as Yanquoi Zayzay said rebel forces over the weekend attacked Cooper Town in the newly-created County of Gbarpolu about 120 kilometers (75 miles) west of here." (AFP, 25 April 2001)

"A UN official Wednesday expressed concern about "what appears to be prospects of increased fighting in Liberia."

[...]

She said figures presented by the Liberia agency responsible for internally displaced persons show some 60,000 persons have been uprooted, 15,000 of them generated in the past few weeks of intense fighting." (PANA, 25 April 2001)

July 2001:

"Liberia's Defence Ministry reported renewed fighting in the northern county of Lofa even as relief organisations continued to appeal for assistance for people displaced by the insecurity there. Defence Minister Daniel Chea said on Tuesday [3 July 2001] that Lofa was under attack by Guinea-based rebels, AFP and humanitarian sources reported.

Chea urged the international community to pressure Conakry into stopping "armed incursions" into Liberian territory, AFP said.

[...] my forces in Voinjama (the main town in Lofa) informed me about renewed attacks in the area from Guinea,' AFP quoted Chea as saying on Tuesday. 'They came under heavy mortar and artillery attack.' He said the worst-affected areas were the towns of Barkedou and Sakonadu, about 170 km north of Monrovia on the Guinea border.

Chea said thousands of civilians, mainly women and children who had returned to Voinjama after pro-government forces expelled the dissidents from Lofa in June, were reported to have fled into the forest. He also reported rebel attacks in Kolahun, about 310 km north of the Liberian capital." (IRIN-WA, 4 July 2001)

October-December 2001:

"The security situation in Liberia remains precarious. Fighting between GOL troops and anti-government forces continues to displaced thousands of Liberians. Until August [2001], fighting had been concentrated in the northern Liberian county of Lofa. However, in the past two months clashes have been reported in Gbarpolu, closer to the capital of Monrovia." (USAID, 3 October 2001)

"The outbreak of major military confrontations along Liberia's border (Lofa county) with Guinea led to the displacement of some 65,000 IDPs 1 since May 2001. In addition, this outburst of violence resulted in new Liberian refugees in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Cote d'Ivoire, as well as the premature return of Sierra Leonean refugees from Liberia to communities in Eastern Sierra Leone." (UN, November 2001, p. 3)

"Amidst reports of movements of dissident groups in Gbarpolu County, vulnerable Liberians continue to flee their homes for the relative safety of IDP camps." (OCHA, 5 November 2001)

"Depuis le mois de février 2001, les hostilités qui sévissent dans le nord du Libéria ont jeté sur les routes -à plusieurs reprises- de très nombreuses familles qui résidaient dans la région du Lofa. Une partie de ces populations a été accueillie dans les camps de Jenemana et de Bopulu, situés au sud-ouest du Lofa. En novembre 2001, ces deux sites regroupaient près de 10 000 personnes. Depuis, la progression des combats a suivi le même chemin que les déplacés : le 7 décembre, ceux-ci - ainsi que bon nombre de résidents - ont été à nouveau contraints de fuir. Actuellement, plusieurs milliers de personnes sont bloquées au niveau d'un important barrage militaire, à Sawmill." (ACF, 14 December 2001)

January-February 2002:

"Fighting in the mining town of Bong Mine near the capital of Monrovia between troops loyal to President Charles Taylor and rebels trying to overthrow him has caused the displacement of at least 20,000 persons, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said Thursday.

The fighting Tuesday in Bong Mine, just 80 kilometres northeast of the capital, marked the second time this month that rebels belonging to Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy have succeeded in bringing the fighting to the doors of the capital. A rebel attack on Klay Junction north of Monrovia last February 7 sent tens of thousands of people fleeing, including some 6,000 who sought shelter in refugee camps established for Sierra Leoneans.

Most of those who fled the most recent clashes sought refuge in Kakata, some 70 kilometres northeast of Monrovia. Reports from the area said many were desperately seeking transportation to get further away from the fighting.

Both United Nations humanitarian agencies and non-governmental organisations were gearing up Thursday to respond to the emergency situation in Kakata. The Liberian government's refugee agency (LRRRC), which has been funded by UNHCR since 1993, is carrying out a global survey on the number of persons displaced by the fighting. Initial U.N. estimates puts their number at 50,000 to 60,000. The government, however, put the figure into the hundreds of thousands." (UNHCR, 21 February 2002)

May 2002:

"At least 40,000 people have been displaced in Liberia by the latest fighting between government troops and rebels in central Bong County, humanitarian workers in the capital, Monrovia, told IRIN on Friday.

More displacement was expected as the fighting intensified around the town of Gbarnga, 160 km north of Monrovia, the workers added. The majority of the displaced were moving south to Margibi County, while a few were moving into Nimba County.

The fighting had by Friday reportedly spread to several areas on the outskirts of Gbarnga. A government military camp housing the engineering and artillery base was overrun by the rebels, news agencies reported.

At least 900 students and teachers from the Cuttington University College, the second largest University in Liberia, were evacuated by a police convoy to Monrovia on Tuesday, the workers said. Fleeing residents, they said, spoke of heavy gun fire coming from the town.

President Charles Taylor spoke on Radio Liberia International on Thursday, saying fighting with rebels of the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) was continuing fiercely. 'All those who have been telling the world there is no war in Liberia- we hope they will now see that this democratically-elected government is under attack, and that powerful nations of the world continue to deny Liberia the right under Article 51 of the UN charter to defend herself.'

Taylor called on the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to lobby the Organisation for African Unity (OAU) and the UN against the Security Council embargo, the pro-Taylor radio station reported.

He said that Liberia should be allowed to order 'materials for legitimate self-defence' despite United Nations sanctions because 'genocide' was taking place in the country. The Mano River states of Guinea and Sierra Leone, he added, should also ensure that cross-border incursions against his country were prevented." (IRIN, 10 May 2002)

February 2003

“Fighting between Liberian government troops and the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebel group has spread from western and northern regions to the southwestern Atlantic port of Robertsport, humanitarian sources in Monrovia reported on Wednesday.

Robertsport, 78 km west of the capital, Monrovia, is the provincial capital of Grand Cape Mount county. It is strategic because it would give the LURD access to the sea for possible movement of supplies and open up a new frontline near the border with Sierra Leone, the sources said.” [...] (IRIN 13 Feb 2003)

“The Liberian government said on Saturday that it was searching for land from private owners near the capital, Monrovia, to settle at least 7,000 people displaced by renewed fighting between its troops and rebels.

The executive director of the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission, Sam Brown, told IRIN that all existing camps were full, but new IDPs continued to flock to them. IDPs at the Jah Tondo and Ricks camps, 15 and 13 km west of Monrovia respectively, told IRIN that shelter and accommodation were inadequate and some of them slept in makeshift shelters.

Fighting between government troops and the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebels resumed last week in western Liberia after a weeks-long lull. It has cut off humanitarian access to large numbers of displaced people, mainly women and children, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported on Friday.

“With access to humanitarian staff and goods cut off, aid agencies already in these camps have been left to deal with the influx. The numbers are increasing,” OCHA said. Teams led by representatives of non-governmental organisations and aid agencies were continuing to register new arrivals and provide them with food and non-food items, health care and family-tracing services.

OCHA reported that some Sierra Leonean refugees and Liberian IDPs had fled their camps, reportedly due to harassment by militias who also robbed fleeing people of their valuables. OCHA also said that retreating rebels had reportedly abducted a number of people.” (IRIN 10 Feb 2003)

“At least 5,000 people have fled fighting in western Liberia between government troops and Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebels, humanitarian sources in Monrovia said.

The sources said the new internally displaced persons (IDPs) had sought refuge at IDP camps in Montserrado County, which includes the capital, Monrovia. Most come from around the towns of Kley and Tubmanburg, northwest of Monrovia.

The government has massed heavily armed troops near the two towns. Defence Minister Daniel Chea confirmed the capture by LURD of Tubmanburg, 60 km west of the capital, and Bopolu, some 100 km northwest of Monrovia. The capital was calm but with more roadblocks.

Humanitarian sources said fighting on Tuesday spread from three major fronts; These include the Tubmanburg-Kley junction, which lies west of Monrovia along the road to Sierra Leone, and the area between Bopolu and Arthington, northwest of Monrovia. The third front was in the northern county of Lofa, extending from St Paul's Bridge on the border with Bong county to Gbalatuah.

On Monday, humanitarian agencies held meetings to draw up contingency plans to respond to the situation, especially in Montserrado which already hosts four camps for Sierra Leone refugees with a total population of 17,000 people and seven IDPs camps holding an estimated 117,000 persons.

On Tuesday, two opposition leaders called for an immediate international intervention to help end the conflict. Rodolph Sherman, leader of Liberia's oldest political party, True Whig Party, told reporters that the US government should get actively involved in ending the war which, he said, continued to cause hardship and to destroy innocent lives.

Another political leader, Charles Brumskine, called on Nigeria, the United States and other members of the International Contact Group on Liberia to ensure the establishment of a stabilisation force, take urgent action to end the fighting in Liberia, and provide a secure environment for the holding of elections.

The International Contact Group on Liberia was established in 2002 following a July 2002 recommendation by a conference of exiled Liberian politicians and civil society activists in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The group includes Senegal, Nigeria, Morocco and the United States. [...] (IRIN, 5 Feb 2003)

April 2003

"Government forces in northern Liberia have launched counter-offensives on two fronts against rebels, people fleeing the war zones have said in the capital Monrovia. Hundreds of civilians fled into the bush in the Nimba region to escape the fighting between President Charles Taylor's troops and a new rebel force known as the Movement for Democracy In Liberia (MODEL), witnesses told AFP. "My friend, the fighting is too heavy; we had to flee the town by all means," Daniel Klee, a businessman and father of three children, said on Monday. "We were dispossessed of our belongings." (AFP, 29 Apr 2003)

Human rights abuses in the context of attacks on towns and villages is one of the main causes of displacement (2002)

- Primary cause of displacement is insecurity caused by fighting between Liberian government forces and LURD rebels
- Many boys and young men have been abducted and forcibly conscripted into pro-government forces, separating families and making women and children more vulnerable
- Large-scale displacement has been caused by radio announcements by the Liberian government, warning of imminent rebel attacks, which often never materialise
- The targeting and hunting down of suspected 'dissidents' by Liberian security forces has also caused large numbers of people to flee

"The causes of displacement are varied but are primarily due to the insecurity caused by the fighting between Liberian government forces and the LURD. Repeated attacks on towns and villages by both sides has had a devastating effect on the Liberian civilian population. Fighting has intensified since the beginning of 2002 with heavily populated towns and villages frequently attacked. These attacks have invariably involved human rights abuses against civilians, civilians caught in the cross-fire and massive looting sprees.

Civilians leave their homes suddenly to escape death or injury, and repeatedly complain of further hardship where they flee. Many leave when they hear heavy gunfire, as the result of a camp or village being attacked, or are told by government forces to flee to escape rebel forces. Often civilians complain that money and personal items are taken from them at government checkpoints, leaving them without the resources to flee to safety. There are large numbers of women and young children in IDP and refugee camps as many boys and young men have been abducted and forcibly conscripted into fighting forces loyal to the government. This has led to separation of families and put women and children at risk of sexual and gender-based violence such as rape and sexual slavery.

Large-scale displacement has also been caused by radio announcements by the Liberian government warning of impending attacks, often apparently without foundation, so that abandoned homes and property can be looted by security forces. On 13 May 2002 the government announced on the radio that rebels were planning an attack on Buchanan in Grand Bassa County, central Liberia. This resulted in a movement of several thousand civilians towards Grand Gedeh County, eastern Liberia, who were reportedly positioning themselves to be ready to cross the border into Cote d'Ivoire, if necessary. Buchanan was not subsequently attacked.

Another cause of flight has been the targeting and hunting down of suspected 'dissidents' by Liberian security forces. Since May 2002 men and boys of Mandingo ethnic origin have been the primary targets of arbitrary arrest and detention without charge by Liberian security forces. This has caused large numbers to flee the country, primarily to Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire. Many complained of harassment at border checkpoints. Others perceived to oppose the government have also sought refuge outside the country, including human rights defenders, journalists, political opponents, and in some cases, former members of the government who have become disaffected with the current government." (Amnesty International, 1 October 2002)

Ongoing fighting in at least 70 percent of the country is the main cause of displacement (since the beginning of 2003)

- IDPs forced to flee attacks by LURD rebels on their camps on the periphery of Gbarnga
- LURD Rebels gained control of counties of Lofa, Gbarpolu, Bomi and Grand Cape Mount
- LURD Rebels attack towns in southeast, broadening front
- Intensive fighting near Monrovia drives civilians into bush but skeptics are cautious saying that it could be a false alarm
- Hundreds of civilians fleeing fighting in the towns of Bopolu, Suehn and Tubmanburg around Monrovia pour into camps near the capital

"Ten of Liberia's 15 counties are now affected by the war. The capture of Pleebo and Harper are significant as the towns are used by logging companies to export timber and by the authorities to import arms and ammunition." (AFP, 20 May 2003)

"UN sources in Abidjan told IRIN that recent fighting had rendered 80 percent of Liberia inaccessible to relief agencies. The World Food Programme had stopped distributing food to an estimated 200,000 displaced people in camps around Liberia because the rations were systematically seized by armed raiders as soon as they are handed out, they noted." (UN OCHA, 19 May 2003)

"WFP and other humanitarian organizations have lost access to 70 percent of the country due to the long-running conflict between government troops and insurgents in Liberia." (WFP, 5 May 2003)

"(a) Fighting escalated through the week and especially after 21 March when LURD rebels attacked and captured the city of Gbarnga in Bong County in central Liberia. As a result of the fighting, an estimated 20,000 internally displaced persons were forced to flee their camps on the periphery of Gbarnga. The IDP's have are headed for Totota, where IDP camps already host more than 36,000 displaced Liberians. Three WFP staff, who were among a large group of relief workers abducted by unidentified combatants in Zwedru, were released on 29 March and managed to cross the border into Côte d'Ivoire. The group was temporarily accommodated and assisted by WFP in Guiglo, Daloa and Yamoussoukro, before departing directly to Monrovia by WFP plane. One WFP worker has still not been released.

(b) Recent events in Gbarnga, Monrovia and Zwedru have led to an increase in the number of IDP's, relative to the number of Sierra Leonean and Ivorian refugees, who receive WFP assistance. Nationals of other countries who have been caught up in the Ivorian conflict continue to arrive in Liberia. 306 third country nationals, mainly Burkinabes and Malians, received WFP 1.8 tons of food assistance in Maryland County. WFP carried out food distributions to IDP's in Montserrado County. In Blamasee and Ricks Institute 34,591 internally displaced persons received 380.304 tons of food. Distributions in two other camps had to be abandoned when LURD rebels infiltrated and began shooting in the Ricks Institute camps." (WFP, 4 April 2003)

"A UNHCR transit camp has come under fire amid resurgent rebel fighting in eastern Liberia, raising concerns about the fate of thousands of Ivorian refugees and other nationals. Meanwhile, the agency has relocated its staff from all border locations, deemed unsafe at the moment.

On Wednesday, rebel forces attacked Zwedru, in Grand Geddeh county, eastern Liberia, near the border with Côte d'Ivoire. Since then, UNHCR has lost touch with some 5,000 Ivorian refugees and other West Africans at the Zwedru transit centre. There are fears they may have been caught in the attack.

"We have been in contact briefly with our two local staff who had remained behind this afternoon. They managed to flee to the south of Zwedru," said Theo Vodounou, UNHCR's emergency co-ordinator for border operations, in Monrovia on Thursday. "However, we have no information on the whereabouts of the refugees."

The fighting erupted as UNHCR was making plans to move all refugees from Zwedru to another transit centre in Harper, on the Atlantic coast, because of growing insecurity in Grand Geddeh county.

This is the second attack on the area in less than a month. On February 28, rebels reportedly coming in from Côte d'Ivoire attacked Toe Town, some 80 km north of Zwedru. Three humanitarian workers of the Adventist Relief and Development Agency (ADRA) were killed and thousands of people were forced to flee, including the 2,500 people hosted at UNHCR's Toe Town transit centre." (UN OCHA, 27 March 2003)

"Fighting between Liberian government troops and rebels of the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) group was reported on Tuesday at Kley junction, 35 km from the capital, Monrovia, as the rebels moved closer to the capital.

The sound of gunfire, which started at midday, caused panic among thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in several nearby camps including Ricks, Jah Tondo and Water-in-the-Desert. Residents of Monrovia were also worried and the main markets of Duala and Waterside were closed down. Cellular communication was interrupted briefly. Humanitarian sources said their staff were stopped by loyalist forces from driving out of the capital." (UN OCHA, 26 March 2003)

"Fighting between Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy Rebels and Liberian Government forces in Liberia's Bong County has caused an estimated 15,000 persons to flee the town of Gbarnga toward Totota, where there are already an estimated 60,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). There are unconfirmed reports that another 2,000 internally displaced persons who had been staying at a camp called TV Tower have been forced to flee for their safety again. The United Nations humanitarian community in Liberia has dispatched a team to the area to gather more information. The United Nations team will work closely with the Liberian Government's own emergency agency, the LRRRC, to determine the number and condition of the people who have fled.

Fighting has also recently occurred near Liberia's capital in the north-west of the country. Within the capital city of Monrovia, armed security officers are reported to have searched houses in the Mamba Point and

Waterside areas as part of a "Cordon and Search" operation. The United Nations has also received reports of the forced conscription of men and women into fighting forces.

Last week, fighting was reported in the western towns of Combat and Zinc in Bomi County. In response to humanitarian needs in that area, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) began lifting food rations to IDP camps near Monrovia in Montserrado County for distribution to previous IDP beneficiaries. The food assistance is expected to benefit some 111,525 IDPs in eight camps." (UN OCHA, 18 March 2003)

"Fighting between Government troops and LURD rebels continued during the week. The most serious contention was over the town of Bo along the border with Sierra Leone. To date, the entire western part of the country (north and south western) remains inaccessible to civilians and humanitarian actors. Following a build up of tension in Zwedru itself, WFP and other humanitarian agencies have relocated staff from that town to safer localities. WFP staff was relocated to Harper, from where they continue to monitor the situation. Over the past week, tension was reportedly mounting in Harper also following reports of an imminent attack on the city. A contingency plan will be activated to relocate from Harper should the situation deteriorate. This would temporarily suspend WFP operations.

"A large number of people continue to be displaced as a result of the war, which now rages in several parts of the country; from the North, West and now also from the Eastern boarder with Cote d'Ivoire. Displaced persons are still arriving daily in displaced camps from areas in Cape Mount and Bomi Counties, other are reported having crossed over into Sierra Leone as well.." (WFP, 14 March 2003)

"As rebel fighting continues in western Liberia, 6,000 Liberians have fled into Sierra Leone while the UN refugee agency works to relocate or repatriate 17,500 Sierra Leonean refugees in Liberia. Over the past week, rebels from the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) have reportedly gained ground in the western Liberian counties of Lofa, Gbarpolu, Bomi and Grand Cape Mount. There are also reports that they are advancing towards the capital, Monrovia.

The tensions have already driven 6,000 terrified Liberians into neighbouring Sierra Leone. Many others have fled their homes and are internally displaced within Liberia. Some 30,000 are said to be in the Monrovia area, with others going into existing camps for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) outside the capital, along the main road to Liberia's second-largest town of Gbarnga.

Meanwhile, Sierra Leonean refugees in camps near Monrovia risk getting caught in the fighting. The number of security-related incidents has risen in these camps, especially in Zuannah camp, which lies between Monrovia and the conflict zone. UNHCR is exploring the possibility of relocating Zuannah's refugees to camps in safer areas.

At the same time, the refugee agency is working to resume the voluntary repatriation of 17,500 Sierra Leonean refugees that was scheduled for February 7 but was suspended because of security concerns overland. UNHCR is now considering the use of air or sea routes to help these refugees return to Sierra Leone.

As thousands flee western Liberia, many others continue crossing into the country's east from troubled Côte d'Ivoire. More than 88,000 people - Liberian returnees, Ivorian refugees and other nationals - have crossed into eastern Liberia since the Ivorian crisis started last September.

Many of them are stuck near the Ivorian/Liberian border - some unable to return to their strife-torn home areas in other parts of Liberia, others no longer able to move on to their home countries through Guinea, which recently closed its borders. UNHCR is transferring some of the Liberians into IDP camps, and providing assistance to third-country nationals in the absence of other relief agencies." (UNHCR, 17 February 2003)

“The fighting spread last week to the previously unaffected town of Robertsport, capital of Grand Cape Mount County but, according to Defence Minister Daniel Chea, government troops were in full control of the southwestern coastal city.

Chea said at a news conference in Monrovia on Tuesday that the fighting had spread on two strategic fronts in northwestern Liberia close to the Guinean border: Zorzor and Kolahun districts in the northern county of Lofa. He also confirmed fighting in Bo-Water side, which is 120 km west of Monrovia, near the Sierra Leonean border.

UNHCR in Monrovia reported on Monday that the fighting along the border had caused 6000 Liberians to cross over into Sierra Leone.

Other battlefronts, according to the defence minister, included Gbah, a town situated between Grand Cape Mount and neighbouring Bomi County on the highway linking Monrovia to the Sierra Leonean border, and Tubmanburg in Bomi county, 60km west of Monrovia.” (IRIN 13 Feb 2003)

“Liberian rebels have reportedly seized the border town of Toe near Ivory Coast, taking their campaign to the southeast for the first time to turn up the heat on President Charles Taylor to quit power. The rebels attacked Toe after crossing into Liberia from western Ivory Coast, which is controlled by two Ivorian insurgent movements which have emerged during five months of civil war, reports reaching Monrovia said. It was however not clear if Toe, which allegedly fell to the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebel group on Wednesday, was still under their control.

Defence Minister Daniel Chea confirmed that there had been attacks on Toe and the northwestern provincial port city of Roberts Port near Liberia's western border with Sierra Leone. Toe in Grand Gedeh county, is the stronghold of the Krahn ethnic group who along with the Mandingo race form the mainstay of the LURD.

LURD chairman Sekou Damate Conneh told AFP Wednesday that his men would seize more strategic towns shortly to put pressure on Taylor to quit the seaside capital Monrovia.

"We are trying to control the surroundings of Monrovia to put pressure, a military pressure, on Taylor's regime because we don't want to enter the town of Monrovia and create bloodshed," he said.

Conneh stressed that the rebels, who have been fighting Taylor since 1999, had not agreed to a truce during weekend peace talks in the Sierra Leone capital Freetown brokered by the Economic Community of West African States regional bloc.

"The agreement was to continue the dialogue to avoid bloodshed in Monrovia," he said, adding that the rebels were expecting an invitation to fresh peace parleys in the Malian capital Bamako.

On February 4, Conneh gave Taylor a week to clear out of Monrovia, sparking panic in the capital.

The government managed to quell panic among the population and claimed to have retaken Tubmanburg, a strategic town 60 kilometres (38 miles) from Monrovia, from the rebels. There was no independent confirmation that rebels held areas surrounding the capital.” (AFP, 13 February 2003)

“Fighting in recent days within striking distance of Liberia's capital, Monrovia, has led to panic among civilians and major disruption with thousands fleeing the area west of the city.

While it appears that forces loyal to President Charles Taylor have pushed rebel troops away from Liberia's coastal capital, hundreds of residents from nearby towns seized by the insurgents are reported to have fled. The BBC reports that streams of people have been arriving at camps for displaced people in the western suburbs of the capital, Monrovia, after trekking through dense forests for three days to escape the clashes. News agencies report the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (Lurd) rebels are renewing their threat to overrun the capital and oust Taylor, who has been in power since 1997 after waging a bloody seven-year civil war in Liberia.

This week's fighting is said to have reached as close as the strategic Po River Bridge, about 12km (8 miles) outside Monrovia, prompting hundreds of civilians to flee towards the city.

The army is reported to have pushed back the rebels, with one military official telling Reuters they were planning hot pursuit raids against their adversaries.

But rival government and rebel forces were said still to be battling around the key mining town of Tubmanburg, about 60km (38 miles) northwest of Monrovia. Last time the rebels entered Tubmanburg, it took Taylor's troops six months to dislodge them.

Liberian defence minister, Daniel Chea, confirmed Thursday that fighting continued in Tubmanburg. And Chea said the rebels were battling government forces around the town of Gba, 38km (24 miles) northwest of Monrovia, towards the Sierra Leone border. "(The rebels) were intercepted by an army division and they have been slugging it out since the morning," the minister told Reuters, predicting that rebel casualties would be high by the time the battles had ended.

Chea had earlier confirmed, Tuesday, that Lurd had recaptured the iron-ore producing town of Bopolu, located 100km west of Monrovia. Chea said at least six government soldiers were killed in the fighting. President Taylor, who was attending an African Union (AU) summit in Ethiopia when fresh fighting broke out earlier this week, returned home on Wednesday amid tight security. He immediately appealed for calm. He then called on the rebels to join him in regionally-mediated peace talks - under the auspices of the 15-member Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas) - in Bamako, the capital of Mali. "We hope that Lurd will seize the opportunity to come to these talks and join the democratic process," said Taylor.

He also urged the rebels to surrender their arms, set up a political party and take part in national elections, scheduled for 14 October.

"This government is going to do everything within its powers to defend this country and the lives and properties of our people," Taylor told the nation in an address broadcast on radio and television. But the Liberian leader's words apparently did little to reassure concerned residents of the capital and outskirts of Monrovia .

There was no immediate response from the Lurd rebels to Taylor's offer of dialogue and a "channel of communication," as he put it. This is the second time in less than a year that Lurd has reportedly come within a few miles of the capital, mirroring Taylor's own failed efforts to seize Monrovia during his days as a rebel chief.

Liberia-watchers cautious

But some Western diplomats, Liberia analysts and Monrovia residents question the authenticity of the purported rebel attacks. They believe these are sometimes faked by Liberian government soldiers, who exaggerate the rebel threat as a means to crack down on the opposition. Observers say this sort of stage-managed assault could be an attempt to create a climate of fear and insecurity among Liberians, to put off exiled opposition politicians from coming home to challenge Taylor in the planned October polls.

Other reasons given for false alarms were a ploy to allow loyalist troops to loot and consolidate their positions and leverage to be able to lobby for an end to a United Nations' embargo on Liberia." (allAfrica.com, 8 February 2003)

"Hundreds of fleeing residents Thursday poured into camps near the Liberian capital Monrovia from nearby towns seized by rebels who have threatened to overrun the seaside city in days.

At the Jah Tondo Displaced camp located about 15 kilometres (nine miles) from Monrovia, more than 1,000 people fleeing fighting in the towns of Bopolu, Suehn and Tubmanburg were registered on the first two days of this week.

"On Monday alone, we registered 600 new arrivals, while more than 500 were registered on Tuesday," said Liberia Refugee Agency monitor Robert Toe.

"New arrivals for Wednesday and Thursday have not yet been registered," he said.

The situation was similar in other camps near the capital, officials said.

President Charles Taylor on Wednesday vowed to crush rebels from the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) group and scorned their ultimatum that he should leave the city in a week or face the consequences.

In a nationwide address shortly upon return from the African Union summit in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, Taylor said he was back in Monrovia to take the rebels head on.

"I have heard of the new dissident attacks on our positions. I'm back home. I am not one of those leaders who runs from his country in times of conflict," Taylor said, adding that it was "foolhardy" for anyone to think that government forces could be beaten.

"We will exert every inch of our being to stop this from happening," Taylor said.

The reports of the situation on Thursday were confused with the government maintaining a studied silence. Monrovia, which had been gripped by panic over the last two days, had returned to normal but most residents were edgy.

Meanwhile, an aid worker at the Jah Tono camp said 75 percent of the arrivals were women and children.

Meme Kweh added: "One new arrival delivered a set of twins on the way to the camp from Bopolu" while another delivered a boy an hour after she arrived.

"It is disheartening that these people have not received relief supplies since they arrived," toe said.

Korpu Verney said she fled her hometown Tubmanburg, 60 kilometres (38 miles) from Monrovia, after a rebel attack on Sunday.

"I saw people running amidst heavy artillery fire; so I was forced to flee along with other members of my family. I have not seen my husband since," she said.

Saa Boyah, another Tubmanburg resident, said: "I had to flee this time due to the intensity of the shooting. I was told by a neighbor who was in Tubmanburg when the rebels entered that a rebel killed and ate a civilian shortly after the town was captured."

"I will not return until total peace is restored to the area," Boyah said, adding that his wife was missing since the attack.

Momo Dorley, a former journalist from Bopolu, 80 kilometres (50 miles) from Monrovia, said rebels stormed the town on Friday.

"They met no resistance and the retreating government soldiers advised us to leave the area until they put things under control," Dorley said.

"This is how they (the rebels) advanced as far as Combat Camp" about 30 kilometres (19 miles) north-west of the capital, he said but stressed that the rebels did not "have the manpower to hold on to the territory."

Dorley said he wanted to return home as soon as feasible as Monrovia did not suit his pocket.

"In Bopolu, 25 Liberian dollars can feed a family of ten. But in Monrovia, you will need no less than 100 dollars," he said". (AFP, 6 February 2003)

The political and security situation in Côte d'Ivoire have further displacement consequences in eastern Liberia (2002-2003)

- Violence in Toe Town at the border with Côte d'Ivoire forced MSF to stop assistance to refugees and returnees as fighting goes on (February- March 2003)
- Civilians in eastern Liberia forced to flee attacks on transit in Zwedru and Toe Town by Liberian mercenaries entering from Côte d'Ivoire (March 2003)

“Fierce fighting between government and rebel forces in the area of Toe Town in south eastern Grand Gedeh County, Liberia has forced thousands of people to flee the region. ACT member Lutheran World Federation/World Service’s representative in Liberia, Charles Pitchford reports that Toe Town itself was an area used as a transit point for thousands of people fleeing the conflict in the Ivory Coast to Liberia.

“The latter arrivals are becoming displaced before they can be settled,” said Pitchford. “Refugees are having to be moved for (their) safety and more Liberians are being displaced as a result of new fighting in Toe Town, as well as recent conflict in Roberts Sport and Tubmanburg.” Pitchford says that although LWF/WS continues to provide assistance to the people affected by the conflict, this can only be done when it is safe enough.

Local media reports suggest that the rebel force of the Liberian United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) has been joined by militia loyal to the Ivorian government, adding complexity to a conflict that has been dragging on for more than a decade.” (Action by Churches Together, 12 March 2003)

““Our teams were forced to leave the area because it was too dangerous to stay and we are very worried now about the situation of the people in the region, both local population and the refugees. Thousands of innocent people remain trapped in an extremely violent and volatile situation, cut off from medical care of any kind,” - said MSF.

Over the past days clashes in Grand Gedeh district, in eastern Liberia on the border with Ivory Coast, have forced thousands of people to flee and MSF teams to evacuate the area. “Since January our teams have been working in Toe Town and the surrounding villages,” explained Kostas Moschochoritis, Operational Coordinator for west Africa in Brussels. “There were tens of thousands of refugees and returnees pouring into the country, fleeing the fighting in neighbouring Ivory Coast. In Toe Town we had been assisting them with medical consultations and water and sanitation in the transit camp and with mobile clinics in the surrounding villages where the majority of them had found temporary refuge.”

However since the weekend of Feb 28-March 1, the fighting in eastern Liberia at the border with Ivory Coast has caused both the local population and the refugees to flee, dispersing in all directions. Some of the refugees - themselves a mix of people from countries including Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Benin, Ivory Coast - as well as Liberian returnees have found refuge in the surrounding villages while many more have resorted to hiding in the bush. For the moment access to them is impossible due to the insecurity.

“Our teams were forced to leave the area because it was too dangerous to stay and we are very worried now about the situation of the people in the region, both local population and the refugees. Thousands of innocent people remain trapped in an extremely violent and volatile situation, cut off from medical care of any kind,” continues Kostas Moschoschoritis.

For many weeks MSF has been urging the UNHCR to move the transit centre further away from the border and to clearly identify a permanent camp that could offer adequate assistance, security and protection to the refugees.

“As long as they are forced to stay in the transit camps close to the border and fighting areas, they are too vulnerable. And recent events have proved this to be the case,” Kostas Moschoschoritis concluded.” (Médecins Sans Frontières, 11 March 2003)

“More than 2,500 Ivorians and other nationals have been forced to flee a UNHCR transit camp in eastern Liberia after fighting erupted in Grand Gedeh district. This is their second displacement in months, having just fled a conflict in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire.

The latest round of fighting, which erupted in eastern Liberia's Toe Town on Friday evening, is said to have involved some Liberian mercenaries, reportedly entering from Côte d'Ivoire and possibly also supported by Ivorian fighters. The Liberian Defence Minister said the rebel group, LURD (Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy), was responsible for the attack.

Toe Town is the site of a transit centre established by the UN refugee agency in December 2002 for some 2,500 people of mixed nationalities fleeing the conflict in western Côte d'Ivoire. Now, once again, these people have fled for their lives, some apparently trying to reach Zwedru, some 80 km to the south, where UNHCR has an office and another transit centre.

"Citizens from Toe Town and a few Ivorian refugees arrived in Zwedru over the weekend and told UNHCR field staff that the town was partly burned and deserted, with bodies lying in the streets," said UNHCR's Emergency Co-ordinator, Jo Hegenauer. "We have no information on the state of our transit centre so far." Local residents also dispersed in different directions, along with the inhabitants of the transit camp. The Liberian government sent reinforcement over the weekend to regain control of the area. On Monday, government forces said they controlled the town, but the highway and surrounding areas were still reportedly very volatile.

"This development is a very serious one, not only for Liberia but also for UNHCR operations in this part of the world," said Moses Okello, the agency's Representative in Liberia. "UNHCR has assisted close to 100,000 persons who have fled the Ivorian conflict since mid-November, but now even this relative 'safe haven' inside Liberia is coming under attack, forcing thousands of people to flee again." Since fighting spread to western Côte d'Ivoire last November, the UN refugee agency in eastern Liberia has assisted close to 40,000 Ivorians and 45,000 Liberian refugees previously living in Côte d'Ivoire. UNHCR has also helped some 13,000 third-country nationals, mainly from Burkina Faso and Mali, who were living in Côte d'Ivoire and had crossed the border into Liberia for safety.

The agency set up four transit centres along the borders and was in the process of establishing more permanent camps where Ivorian refugees, many of whom are presently staying in volatile border villages, could be hosted. The Liberian returnees have been assisted to return home to relatively safe areas of Liberia, while those coming from places still at war inside Liberia were transferred to existing camps for internally displaced persons in Totota, north of Monrovia.

UNHCR is very concerned about the safety of the people placed under its protection, and about the security of its staff and non-governmental organisation partners in the border areas. According to the agency's staff in the region, these developments should not immediately affect the assisted return movement for Liberian refugees stranded near Tabou, in south-western Côte d'Ivoire. Some 2,350 Liberians have been assisted by UNHCR to return to Harper, in eastern Liberia, since January 17. Harper is located at the southern tip of Liberia, quite a distance away from the current conflict zone.

In another development closer to Liberia's border with Guinea, a large number of people have reportedly fled from New Yourpea and Dubuzon towns and were walking in the direction of Saclapea in Nimba county, where UNHCR also has a newly created refugee camp for Ivorians.

These extremely worrying developments come as fighting rages in western Liberia, where LURD rebels have been causing trouble in parts of the Lofa, Gbarpolu, Bomi and Grand Cape Mount counties. Fighting has also been getting increasingly close to Monrovia in recent weeks." (UNHCR, 3 March 2003)

"More than 200,000 people have fled to neighbouring countries including Sierra Leone, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. In addition, there are approximately 50,000 Sierra Leonean refugees in Liberia. The political and security upheaval that recently occurred in Côte d'Ivoire may have further humanitarian consequences for Liberia, including new population displacement." (OCHA 19 November 2002)

The recent escalation of the fighting causes new displacements (August 2003)

- Fighting near Harbel displaced IDPs who previously move there to escape the fighting in Monrovia
- Civilian populations are reportedly moving towards RIA to escape the fighting
- IDPs who have dared to return found their homes looted
- Other displacements have been reported near Buchanan and Gbarnga
- The shelling and gunfire is causing displacement within and out of the capital Monrovia

“The fighting near Harbel has caused internally displaced person (IDP) movements in and around the area. News reports on August 12 indicated that IDPs who had previously fled to Harbel to escape the fighting in Monrovia departed from Harbel to avoid the recent outbreak of fighting between MODEL and the GOL.

Civilian populations are also reportedly moving towards RIA to escape the fighting.” (USAID, 13 Aug 2003)

“The recent escalation of the fighting caused thousands of families to flee. Those who have dared to return to their homes find them looted and most of their possessions gone.

Residents who stayed were intimidated and had their belongings forcibly taken away from them.” (World Relief, 6 August 2003).

“While Monrovia was relatively calm, the UN continued to receive reports of people having been displaced by recent fighting near Buchanan and Gbarnga.” (UN OCHA, 31 July 2003)

“The intense shelling and gunfire is causing widespread displacement within and out of the capital of Monrovia, in areas where there isn't adequate shelter or means of survival.

The Government of Liberia has already reported over 600 deaths; if fighting does not cease, the death toll will continue to rise.” (UN OCHA, 22 July 2003)

After the peace agreement signed on August 18, new skirmishes force civilians to flee (August-September 2003)

- The agreement, which paved way for a broad-based transitional government to be sworn in 14 October 2003, was meant to signal the immediate end of armed conflict
- In Totota alone, an estimated 80,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) have sought shelter in transit centers
- Another group of over 6,000 people is believed to be living in a new IDP camp between Salala and Kakata

“The UN refugee agency today joined other aid agencies on a mission north-east of the Liberian capital, Monrovia, to investigate new reports of large-scale displacement and to assess the humanitarian conditions in host areas.

On Wednesday, an inter-agency team that included UNHCR staff visited an area encompassing the towns of Totota, Salala and Kakata, north-east of Monrovia. The day before, sounds of shelling north of Totota had reportedly sent thousands of terrified Liberians moving towards the three towns.

In Totota alone, an estimated 80,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) have sought shelter in transit centres. In Salala, the International Committee of the Red Cross is planning to set up a second camp to cope

with the recent influx. A separate group of over 6,000 people is believed to be living in a new IDP camp between Salala and Kakata.” (UNHCR, 3 September 2003)

Other factors fuelling the conflict

Element of ethnicity to be considered in Liberian context (2000-2003)

- Government has accused MODEL dominated by the Krahn tribe of killing Gio and Mano tribes who supported Taylor, but MODEL denies
- Eyewitnesses said that the rebels hacked at women and children with knives, opening up their stomachs
- Government has blamed Krahn and Mandingo groups for violence in North
- Mandingos are considered by many Liberians to have strong affinities with Guinea

“Liberian state radio reported that MODEL killed hundreds of people in Bahn. Information Minister, Reginald Goodridge, told IRIN the killings were “tribal revenge killings” by the Krahn tribe who dominated MODEL against Gio and Mano tribes, who supported Taylor.

MODEL issued a statement denying that it had killed civilians. However eyewitnesses told international journalists that the rebels hacked at women and children with knives, opening up their stomachs. They burnt also down whole villages.” (IRIN, 28 August 2003)

"Liberia's vice-president, Moses Blah, has warned against rising ethnic unrest in the northern county of Nimba.

Blah, quoted on state-run radio, described the tension between members of the Mandingo and Mano ethnic groups as 'disturbing'. Blah headed a presidential committee that visited Nimba County last weekend to investigate the ethnic clashes.

Liberian newspapers reported on 10 October [2000] that armed police had been deployed to the Nimba town of Ganta to quell riots between groups of Manos and Mandingos. Reports said the riots in Ganta, which is located about 220 km northeast of Monrovia, had left the city centre deserted and some homes and businesses looted.

Some reports said the clashes are rooted in a land dispute. The unrest has been aggravated by tension between the Liberian and Guinean governments, which have accused each other of backing dissidents. Mandingos are considered by many Liberians to be close to Guinea." (IRIN-WA 15 October 2000)

"The festering ethnic clashes between the Mandingo, Gio and Mano tribes in Nimba and Bong Counties could continue and cause further internal displacement." (UN November 2000, Republic of Liberia)

"Ethnic Krahn and Mandingo people, historically seen to be allied with the repression of the former Doe government and with anti-Taylor factions during the war, were particularly susceptible to harassment at the hands of the state security apparatus. Following the violence in Monrovia in 1998, Krahn were targeted for extrajudicial executions, harassment, and politically motivated criminal charges. In the aftermath of the Lofa County incursions in 1999, security forces killed, tortured, and mistreated civilians, particularly members of the Mandingo ethnic group. During the incursions and counter-attacks in Lofa County, hundreds were killed and thousands of citizens as well as Sierra Leonean refugees were forced to flee the area. Although some of the alleged abuses by the security forces were investigated by the government, in

all cases security personnel were treated leniently or exonerated. Since the 1999 and 2000 rebel incursions in Lofa County, Mandingo residents remain afraid to return to their homes." (HRW 2000, Human Rights Developments)

Illicit smuggling of diamonds from Sierra Leone fuels conflict in the region (2000)

- Trafficking in diamonds and gun-running are used to finance wars in region

"Underlying the Sierra Leone conflict and its spread in the sub-region is the trade in its illegally mined diamonds, and the proliferation of small arms in the entire region. Instability in Sierra Leone and Guinea is fuelled by armed support being provided outside the country to the RUF in Sierra Leone and the related insurgents who attack Guinea. Trafficking in diamonds and gun-running are used to finance war efforts.

Reports indicate that diamond exports from the sub-region have risen and have been channelled through a variety of countries. It is believed that official channels only partially reflect the real trade in diamonds, as reports indicate that some gems could be reaching Western Europe under fake country of origin certificates for tax purposes." (UN November 2000)

For more information on the diamonds-for-guns trade in West Africa, see the Report of the Panel of Experts appointed to Security Council resolution 1306 (2000), para 19, in relation to Sierra Leone (S/2000/1195) [External link].

Liberian timber industry reported to be 'a primary source of funding for Liberia's war machine' (September 2002)

- Investigative NGO, Global Witness, exposes direct links between Liberia's timber industry and the conflict
- Global Witness reports that numerous logging companies continue to be engaged in illegal arms imports for the government, committing human rights abuses and destabilising Liberia and its neighbours

"Due to the UN Security Council's inaction on Liberia, the Liberian timber industry remains a primary source of funding for Liberia's war machine. Many logging companies continue to be actively engaged in illegal arms imports for the government, committing human rights abuses and destabilising Liberia and the entire West Africa sub-region. A new Global Witness report, titled Logging Off: How the Liberian Timber industry fuels Liberia's humanitarian disaster and threatens Sierra Leone, exposes the direct links between Liberia's timber industry and the conflict. The report also details how the United Nations has failed to heed the evidence presented by its own Expert Panels to actively address the destabilising role of the Liberian logging industry. Global Witness recommends that the UN impose a complete embargo on Liberian timber, and mandate any new Expert Panel on Liberia to conduct a thorough investigation of the Liberian timber industry.

'UN failure to acknowledge 'conflict timber' as a war commodity just like diamonds or oil and its refusal to allow Expert Panels to conduct a thorough investigation of the timber industry frustrates attempts to resolve the conflict in Liberia,' says Global Witness Campaigner Alice Blondel. 'The Security Council's refusal to impose a ban on Liberian logs exports—due primarily to the objections of France and China—means that the international community's attempts to bring peace to Sierra Leone could soon be completely undone'.

Global Witness and UN Expert Panels have uncovered numerous violations of current UNSC sanctions by the Liberian government and timber companies, continued human rights abuses by parastatal logging

company militias, and significant inaccuracies in the UN's own research of the Liberian timber industry."
(Global Witness, 18 September 2002)

[*Click here for full report*](#)

POPULATION PROFILE AND FIGURES

Global figures

Between 500,000 and 600,000 IDPs in Liberia (August 2003)

- Estimates of IDPs in camps, irregular settlements, and unidentified locations in Monrovia range from 250,000 to 450,000 people
- Prior to the outbreak of fighting in July, combined estimates from UN OCHA and NGOs indicated that approximately 600,000 Liberians are IDPs

“Estimates of IDP populations. Due to the current level of insecurity and constant flux of IDP movements in and around Monrovia and Buchanan since July 19, humanitarian organizations have not been able to develop reliable and consistent estimates of IDP populations.

Current estimates of IDPs in camps, irregular settlements, and unidentified locations in Monrovia range from 250,000 to 450,000 people. The total population of Monrovia is now estimated to be 1.3 million people.

Prior to the July 19 outbreak of fighting, combined estimates from UN OCHA and NGOs in Liberia indicated that approximately 600,000 Liberians are currently displaced as a result of the ongoing civil war.

IDP population at Greystone. According to the USAID/OFDA DART, the number of IDPs at Greystone has continued to decrease, with current estimates of approximately 3,000 people remaining.

The decline may be due to the decrease in gunfire and mortar attacks in the Mamba Point area since August 4.” (USAID, 13 August 2003)

Numbers at a Glance	Source
Internally Displaced	Total : 500,000-600,000 in Liberia 150,000 - IDP camps and irregular settlements in Monrovia 200,000-300,000 - Accommodated by Monrovia residents 160,000 - Outside of Monrovia UN OCHA and NGOs, July 2003 UN OCHA and NGOs, July 2003 European Commission, July 2003
Refugees	70,000 Liberians in Guinea 53,000 Liberians in Sierra Leone 50,000 Liberians in Côte d'Ivoire 35,000 Ivorians in Liberia 13,500 Sierra Leoneans in Liberia UNHCR, July 2003 UNHCR, June 2003 USCR, August 2003 UNHCR, August 2003 UNHCR, August 2003

(USAID, 27 August 2003)

There could be between 250,000 and 450,000 IDPs in Monrovia (August 2003)

- In line with observations, population figures are increasing in all accessible centers
- Prior to the escalation of hostilities in Liberia there were 250,000 IDPs in Monrovia and surrounding counties
- According to UN OCHA, this number has probably increased to over 450,000 IDPs
- The last WFP/LRRRC registration identified 62 centres hosting roughly 180,000 persons
- Only 30 of these centers are still accessible and are hosting roughly 180,000 IDPs

“Prior to the escalation of hostilities there were an estimated 250,000 internally displaced persons, 15,000 Sierra Leonean refugees and 10,500 third country nationals dispersed in Monrovia and surrounding counties.

This number has probably increased to over 450,000 displaced people in Monrovia alone. There have also been significant population outflows, with more expected.

Liberia is facing a major humanitarian crisis. The sustained combat and complete breakdown of law and order in and around Monrovia has led to massive population displacement. At least 450,000 people are estimated to be displaced in Monrovia and environs.” (UN OCHA, 7 August 2003).

“The leadership in all IDP centres is now updating the registration lists. Apparently, population figures are increasing in all accessible centres, in line with observations.

According to the last WFP/LRRRC registration, 62 centres were identified hosting roughly 180 000 persons.

Currently, around 30 of these previously existing centres are still accessible hosting an estimated 170 000 persons³, showing a population increase in each of these “safer” centres.

An additional 30 000 persons have taken refuge in new centres in Paynesville area, bringing the total caseload to around 200 000 persons, i.e. a 10% increase compared to the situation in mid July (before the 3rd attack on 18th of July).

To this caseload must be added the IDPs presumed to have remained in the 32 centres that are now inaccessible. The figure of 200,000 IDPs within Monrovia is thus judged to be a conservative estimate of the situation.

According to collected estimates and bases on figures from WFP before the 3rd attack, the chart below can give an idea of the repartition of the movement. These figures can not be considered as accurate and should rather be used as trend indicators.

	IDP Population before 3 rd attack	Accessible IDP Pop. after 3 rd attack	Average increase in IDP population per accessible zone
Zone 1	(54 000) 30%	(73 000) 36%	+ 25%
Zone 2	(12 000) 7%	(31 000) 15%	+ 150%
Zone 3*	(60 000) 33%	(98 000) 48%	+ 60%
Zone inaccessible after 3 rd attack	(52 000) 30%	No data	

Table 1: IDP population estimate within Monrovia, Aug. 1st, 2003.

Source: ACF, WFP.

* : in zone 3, SKD complex alone represents 50% of the estimated population

(Actions Against Hunger, 5 August 2003)

At least 80,000 new IDPs living in camps in 2002, says Médecins Sans Frontières

- According to Médecins Sans Frontières, it is not clear how many civilians are still trapped in conflict-riddled Lofa County

“Throughout 2002, civil war raged between Charles Taylor's government troops and rebels from the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) in Liberia's northern Lofa region. Fighting has forced as many as 250,000 civilians to flee Liberia and seek refuge in neighboring Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Ivory Coast - almost 90,000 fled during 2002 alone. In addition, there are at least 80,000 internally displaced persons living in camps in Liberia and an unknown number of civilians still trapped in conflict-riddled Lofa County.

Many Liberians have been uprooted multiple times in the past decade and have suffered at the hands of the LURD and government forces, both of which have perpetrated violations of international humanitarian and refugee law with virtual impunity in front of an indifferent international community.

Refugees and displaced persons throughout the region have described enduring extortion, rape, forced conscription, labor, and repatriation to war zones, beatings, and imprisonment as they have sought assistance. Many displaced persons and residents struggle to survive in rural areas, particularly in the Lofa County region, where insecurity makes access to humanitarian assistance next to impossible.

In Liberia's capital Monrovia, most of the buildings destroyed by civil war in the early 90s still lie in ruins. Public hospitals and health services have all but stopped functioning, except for where assisted by international agencies, and there is a severe lack of potable water, a situation that is not likely to improve as long as a significant portion of the national budget is diverted to the conflict rather than to improving the living conditions of the population.” (Médecins Sans Frontières, 31 December 2002)

Differing estimates exist regarding the current number of "old caseload" IDPs (2000-2001)

Concerning the number of persons still displaced from the civil conflict of 1989-1997, the Liberia Refugee, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) states:

"The LRRRC say it needs to strengthen the capacity of the remaining communities to attract people, including some of the close to 100,000 IDPs in and around Monrovia to return to the countryside and stay." (IRIN-WA 20 July 2000, para. 2)

And UNHCR considers some 110,700 IDPs of concern to the agency in January 2001 (presumably "old caseload" as there was no where near that number of newly displaced persons in the country at the time):

"ESTIMATES OF MAJOR POPULATIONS OF IDPs OF CONCERN TO UNHCR [at 1ST January 2001] 1

Country	IDPs	Returned IDPs
Eritrea	1,100,000	-
Afghanistan	758,600	-
Sri Lanka	706,500	-
Azerbaijan	572,500	-
Colombia	525,000	-
Bosnia-Herzegovina	518,300	59,300
Russian Federation	490,700	70,000
Sierra Leone	300,000	200,000
Georgia	272,100	300
Yugoslavia	267,500	-
Angola	257,500	-
Liberia	110,700	13,400

1 Groups over 100,000.
(UNHCR 2 October 2001, "IDPs and others of concern")

whereas the UN Sub-Committee on Nutrition noted:

"An estimated 75% of IDPs have returned to their places of origin and it is probable that the remaining 25% may settle permanently where they are. The Government of Liberia and WFP no longer consider these people to be displaced." (UN Sub-Committee on Nutrition 25 July 2000, p. 22)

IDP figures in 2002 vary greatly depending on the source – but could be more than 200,000 by October (2002)

- In October 2002, WFP reports there are more than 183,900 IDPs in camps in the suburbs of Monrovia, Totota and CARI
- WFP is worried about a possible 'dramatic explosion' in the current caseload due to ongoing conflict as well as people leaving Monrovia for better conditions in the camps
- In August 2002, estimates of IDP numbers ranged between 90,000 and 200,000 - although counting mechanisms are widely acknowledged as faulty
- Many thousands more people are believed to be displaced inside conflict zones, to whom humanitarian organisations have no access

"WFP is particularly concerned by the continuing increase in the number of IDPs in camps in the suburbs of Monrovia, Totota and CARI which reached over 183,900 people on 23 October. This trend may indicate that in addition to those who fled conflict areas, there may be people who are gradually finding it difficult to sustain their living in Monrovia town and prefer to settle in the camps where assistance is being provided. Should this movement intensify it might result in a dramatic explosion of the current caseload. As poverty and lack of minimal services intensify in Monrovia town, people may also be tempted to register in

the camps, obtain ration cards, build their shelter in the camps but continue to reside in town. They would then report to the camps only at times of distributions or in case of need for other services.

[...]

Fighting is reportedly continuing in Lofa County, causing new displacements of civilians. An estimated 3,000 people were forced to cross the border with neighboring countries and an undetermined number of IDPs are hiding in the forests or walking towards relatively secure parts of the country. WFP anticipates that the number of displaced in need of assistance will continue to increase. OCHA will implement a census of all IDPs in Liberia possibly by the end of October. WFP, other UN partners and NGOs, are giving full support to the census which is expected to give a comprehensive and up to date picture of IDP figures throughout Liberia." (WFP, 25 October 2002)

"According to UN OCHA, the number of IDPs in Liberia increased from 45,000 in January 2002 to 126,427 in August, although estimates from other sources range from 90,000 to 200,000. In September, the World Food WFP resumed 100 percent distribution of emergency food assistance rations to IDPs, as well as Sierra Leonean refugees. The rations were reduced by 50 percent in July as a result of the delayed arrival of cereal commodities." (USAID, 9 October 2002)

"According to the Liberia Refugee, Repatriation, Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), the official figures of displaced population in Liberia as of August 31, 2002 is as follows: 196,055 Internally Displaced Populations; 21,750 Refugees; 376,537 Returnees and 250,000 Host populations.

More than fifty per cent of the IDP population (99,240 IDPs) is settled in five IDP camps in Montserado County (in the suburb of Monrovia): Jartondo camp (17,000 IDPs), Wilson camp (25,700 IDPs), Blamasse camp (15,346 IDPs), Sergebeh camp (28,300 IDPs), Ricks Camp (12,894 IDPs) and Plumkor (a new camp population not yet defined).

Other IDPs are located in various camps in the Northwest part of Liberia: Cari 1 & 2 and Totota camps in Bong County, Kakata camp in Margibi County, Ganta camp in Nimba county and Buchana camp in Grand Bassa County. Sinje camp in Grand Cape Mount County was closed due to rebel's attack of late June in this County." (WHO, 31 August 2002)

"A total of 112,400 people are estimated to be displaced throughout the country. This includes 35,000 IDPs in Monrovia, 10,200 in Sinje (Cape Mount county), 6,500 in Kataka (Margibi county) 38,200 in Totata and Gbondoi (Bong county) and 1,000 in Buchanan (Grand Bassa county)." (WFP, 31 May 2002)

"At the beginning of 2002 it was generally agreed that the number of IDPs resulting from the upsurge of violence in Lofa County since May 2001 was in the range of 50,000 to 60,000. With new multiple displacements during the first quarter of 2002, basic registration mechanisms have broken down and scores of new IDPs have not yet been registered. Current estimates for IDPs in camps only vary widely from some 50,000 to as many as 100,000 depending on information sources. Disagreement over the numbers of IDPs in camps has further heightened tension between the humanitarian actors and the Government.

The current registration system needs a complete overhaul with enhanced control mechanisms and new implementing methods, including regular verification, to prevent abuses such as multiple registrations and fraudulent registration of non-IDPs. For example public information of a forthcoming registration exercise led to an influx of "IDPs" from Monrovia city to the camps. To address this problem, the Mission proposed a two-track process involving as a first step setting up a joint (UN/NGOs/GOV) task force to forge a consensus IDP planning figure; and at a later stage, possibly during the second quarter of 2002, to conduct a full simultaneous registration exercise with participation of all actors. HCR's experience in refugee registration in camps and lessons learned from Sierra Leone could be useful.

Figures are not available for dispersed IDPs. The northwestern counties Lofa and Gbarpolu are not accessible for security reasons and there is no reliable information on population movements and their

humanitarian needs. Likewise no precise information is available on the IDP population settled in Monrovia outside camps." (OCHA IDP Unit, 21 May 2002)

UN estimated there to be 750,000 IDPs at end of civil war (1998)

"The UN estimated that some 750,000 Liberians were internally displaced at the beginning of the year [1997]. That this estimate remained essentially unchanged at year's end reflected the uncertainty about the number of displaced persons living outside formal shelters. In the absence of definitive reports, USCR estimated that at least 500,000 Liberians remained internally displaced at year's end [1997]. Most displaced persons lived in Monrovia." (USCR 1998, p. 77)

Geographical distribution

The numbers of IDPs in camps vary greatly depending on the date (August 2003)

- In Monserrado County, around 150,000 were living in 8 camps in the town of Brewerville
- At the beginning of August approximately 100,000 IDPs were living in camps in Totota, Maimu, Salala, Kakata and Buchanan
- At the end of August approximately 50,000 IDPs were living in three camps at Salala, Totota and Maimu

"Prior to the escalation of hostilities, the areas outside Monrovia had been host to approximately 150,000 IDPs, residing in eight (8) camps in the Brewerville area of Montserrado County and approximately 100,000 IDPs in camps in Totota, Maimu, Salala, Kakata and Buchanan.

The number and condition of persons behind rebel lines remain largely unknown, but reports are of their vulnerability and abject misery." (UN OCHA, 7 August)

"There are currently approximately 50,000 IDPs in three camps at Salala, Totota, and Maimu, 80 km northeast of Monrovia." (USAID, 27 August 2003)

In the capital Monrovia, IDPs are sheltering in virtually improvised collective centres (August 2003)

- IDPs have sought refuge in all nooks and corners of Monrovia
- Between 50,000 and 65,000 IDPs have sought refuge at the Samuel Doe Sports Stadium

"It is estimated that more than 400,000 IDPs have sought refuge in the center of Monrovia, mainly in improvised collective centres such as school buildings and the Monrovia stadium (which is said to house as many as 65,000 people)." (NRC, 30 August 2003)

"This dilapidated city of more than one million people is already overstretched by the presence of an estimated 300,000 displaced people sheltering in virtually all its nooks and corners. Of these, up to 50,000 took shelter in the national sports stadium following attempts by LURD to overrun the city in June and July.

Many of the displaced civilians thronging Monrovia, had been living for years in camps of mud huts on the city's outskirts, forced to leave their original homes by a civil war that has festered on since 1989.

They fled into the relative safety of the city centre as the rebels advanced into the northwestern suburbs and began shelling the city centre." (IRIN, 28 August 2003)

"Internally displaced people (IDPs), refugees and community residents of Brewerville, Virginia and Bushrod Island moved into Monrovia city centre, the eastern suburbs of Sinkor, Congo Town, Paynesville and Kendija on the way to the Robertsfield International Airport. The distinction between displaced persons and resident populations is now blurred.

An estimated 50,000 persons found temporary refuge at the Samuel K. Doe Sports Stadium, while some 150,000 war victims are scattered in ninety-two (92) informal shelters in Monrovia city and its environs. These sites, which include public buildings, UN compounds, schools, churches and abandoned structures, are badly overcrowded. People are living in poor and unsanitary conditions and lack food, clean water, toilets and sanitation facilities." (UN OCHA, 7 August)

Upsurge in fighting starting in December 2001 causes successive waves of displacement (2001-2002)

- Situation in Gbarpolu county deteriorates in December 2001; fighting forces IDPs in Bopolu camp to move south and northeast; many seek shelter at Sawmill in Bomi County
- In February 2002, shooting at Klay Junction forces IDPs towards Monrovia and some to Sinje in Grand Cape Mount County
- Fighting in Bong County in April 2002 prompts IDPs to seek refuge near the central town of Gbarnga; some head for the four established camps in the county
- In May, civilians are forced to flee once again when fighting breaks out near Gbarnga, and again comes dangerously close to Monrovia. Three IDP camps are forced to close.

"Heavy fighting is raging between Liberian Government forces and rebels known as Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (Lurd) near the central town of **Gbarnga**.

Thousands of people are fleeing the city - which used to serve as the headquarters of President Charles Taylor's forces when he was a rebel leader.

The BBC's Jonathan Paye-Layleh, who has visited Gbarnga, says the fighting is raging near the town of Weinsu, about 40 km (25 miles) away. (BBC, 8 May 2002)

"Fighting intensified in May and spread to Bong and Bomi Counties, causing massive movements of population to Ganta (Guinea border), Bomi, Grand Bassa and Margibi counties. The latest round of fighting also hit the centrally located city of Gbarnga and its environs, making residents and humanitarian agencies to flee. These attacks led to the closure of the second largest university (Cuttington), a Lutheran Mission hospital (Phebe) and three camps (CARI 1, CARI 2 and TV Tower) holding over 35,000 IDPs.

Humanitarian agencies have set-up transit camps and mobile clinics to assist the fleeing IDPs as alternative sites are being sought. The constant insecurity and desertion of camps by IDPs has increased the cost of providing support to the vulnerable populations. As old camps are deserted and looted, the humanitarian agencies have to reinvest in new structures. The number of IDPs in camps and transit sites is approaching 100,000." (UNICEF, 29 May 2002)

An estimated 7,289 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in central Liberia have left their camps in **Bellefanai**, Bong County, following fighting between armed dissidents and government troops, the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Activities (OCHA), reported on Wednesday.

The IDPs have sought refuge in **Weinsu**, 15 km south of Gbarnga, OCHA said in its situation report for 17-23 April. Gbarnga is the main town in Bong, the county that adjoins Lofa where the bulk of the fighting between pro-government troops and dissidents has been going on.

It was not clear how many people were wounded or died in the 19 April fighting. The report noted that the minister of defence had said military operations were still going on.

Liberian officials told IRIN recently the rebels had adopted 'a hit and run' strategy.

OCHA said conditions in Weinsu were unsuitable and clearance was being sought to move the IDPs to CARI and the TV Tower, camps also located in Bong. Some people had started arriving in these camps and they were being counted by WFP, LRRRC - the state body responsible for IDPs and NGOs. Over 3,600 new IDPs have so far been registered in the camps, according to the OCHA report.

Action Contre la Faim was giving milk to children in the displaced camps while WHO was conducting a campaign to vaccinate them against yellow fever, diphtheria, tetanus, measles and polio, OCHA reported. It said WHO had trained 80 people in disease surveillance and other agencies had been providing basic necessities such as food, health care and emergency education." (IRIN, 25 April 2002)

"Fighting in **Lofa Bridge** and **Gbarma** generated a new wave of IDP movements into **Sinje**, in Cape Mount and towns and villages in **Sanoyea District** in Bong County and has repressed humanitarian work where insurgent incidents have taken place. However, during the reporting period, the situation in **Heindii and Bong Mines** was relatively calm and some IDPs displaced in the area since the 19th February attack were returning amidst the presence of armed soldiers and scores of militia in those areas." (UN OCHA, 31 March 2002)

"(a) On 7 February, shooting erupted around **Klay junction** (Bomi County) where up to 10,000 IDPs were located. The situation in Monrovia was reportedly tense and some people have started leaving towards the interior of the country or across the border into Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. As a result, the Liberian Government declared a 'state of emergency' on 8 February and reinforced security on the road leading to Klay Junction, 58km from Monrovia. The Government also imposed an exit visa on everyone leaving the country, including UN staff.

(b) Following the shooting, approximately 10,300 IDPs previously registered in Klay town, including people repeatedly displaced from **Bopolu, Jenemana and Sawmill** areas were again forced to flee. Some moved towards **Monrovia** while others headed towards **Sinje** in Grand Cape Mount County. Towns and villages along the Klay to Monrovia and the Klay to Sinje routes have also been abandoned by the resident population. The numbers of people heading in each direction has not been determined. No humanitarian agency has been allowed beyond St Paul River, between Monrovia and Klay Junction.

(c) Approximately 14,700 IDPs arrived in the suburbs of **Monrovia**, according to the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC). They are sheltered in four sites (**ex-VOA transmittal site, Zuanna Town, Ricks Institute and Jah Tondo's Town**) and their number is being verified by humanitarian agencies. Others are reportedly staying in **Lenduama and Kamara Town**, while another group of IDPs was reportedly stopped by Government troops at **Sass Town**, approximately 35 kilometres from Monrovia.

(d) The four established camps in **Bong county (CARI 1&2, TV Tower and Bellefanai)** have a current population of 30,000 IDPs, including 3,000 new arrivals. Access to these camps is not problematic and WFP has been assisting this caseload. However, new influxes of IDPs were reported in various locations of Bong County. As of 7 February, approximately 1,500 IDPs had been registered and verified in **Haiddii** and

Bong Mines. An estimated 5000-8000 people have reportedly arrived in **Gbonota and Kelebei**, near the St Paul River between Lofa and Bong counties.

(e) In addition, 4,500 persons have reportedly arrived in **Sinje** (Grand Cape Mount County). This figure includes 2,300 displaced who arrived earlier and were assisted by WFP on 2-4 February. The number of Sierra Leonean refugees on the move steadily increased also. WFP is currently providing assistance to some 40,000 Sierra Leonean refugees in the country, made up of about 18,600 in Sinje (80km south west of Monrovia) and some 21,400 in Monrovia. Two of these camps, VOA and Zuannah Town are currently receiving IDPs also. 2,000 refugees, according to UNHCR, have spontaneously returned to Sierra Leone, whilst organized repatriation is to commence on 13 February.

(f) Due to the prevailing insecurity, WFP operations in Bomi, Gbarpolu and Grand Cape Mount Counties have been suspended. However, WFP has made the necessary arrangements to promptly respond to the new influxes of IDPs and refugees in all accessible areas. 660 tons of food were distributed under various programmes from 3 January to 13 February. In particular, WFP has undertaken food distributions to IDPs registered in two sites in Monrovia." (WFP, 15 February 2002)

Figures and locations as of end 2001:

1. IDPs	55,000
Current caseload	
Bong County	37,740²
Grand Cape Mount County	26,043
Gbarpolu County	9,065
Contingency caseload	2,632
	17,260
2. Sierra Leonean Refugees	65,000
	(34,000 assisted)
3. Liberian Returnees	5,000
4. Host communities (Bong, Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, Lofa Counties)	500,000

Footnote to table states: "The current IDP figures were obtained from a joint verification exercise conducted in the camps at the end of September 2001."

(UN November 2001, p. 23)

IDPs in Gbarpolu county find themselves in danger and again on the move in December 2001:

"It is estimated right now that over 5,000 people are moving south of Bopolu towards the **Tubmanburg area** and Northeast of Bopolu towards **lower Bong County**. The movement of the IDPs from Bopolu continued throughout Friday and part of Saturday (7 - 8 December) and it has been reported that the camp is now completely deserted. LWF/WS was the last NGO to evacuate the camp at midday, Saturday, 8 December. Other NGOs that evacuated the camp included ICRC, AFC and Save the Children, UK. The people on the move are in total panic and these are mostly women and children who claim to have lost most what little they possessed." (ACT 11 December 2001)

"Chea was quoted as saying that huge numbers had left Gbarpolu County, which adjoins the troubled northern Lofa County, and sought shelter at **Sawmill in Bomi County**.

He said that the internally displaced people were basically from the towns of Bopolu, Weasua, Ngemgbai in the Fassama and Kolahun regions." (AFP 12 December 2001)

"United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator Kenzo Oshima has expressed alarm at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Liberia's northwestern Gbarpolu county following attacks by alleged dissidents that have put thousands at risk.

"The displacement of 1,413 people by these attacks has nearly doubled the population of the **Bopolu IDP camp**, strained its already inadequate resources, and created serious security and health risks for all those seeking refuge there.' Oshima said in a statement." (IRIN 5 December 2001)

"An influx of people from Belle Fassama (in Gbarpolu County) is moving towards the **Bopolu displaced camp** which already has a population of 2,000,' she said.

There were no reports as yet on the numbers of the displaced or casualties, she said. There was equally no information that displaced people were moving into **Gemana camp** which has a population of 7,000. 'A team from SCF which was to travel to Bopolu to check on the situation encountered some delay and would leave possibly by Monday,' Gibreel added." (IRIN 30 November 2001)

"According to the source, the displaced people in **Gemana camp** in the northwestern Gbarpolu county which had a population of 7,000, had remained in the camp. 'The displaced in the camp are not happy with the fighting but they opted not to flee,' the source added." (IRIN 12 December 2001)

Nearly all inhabitants of Voinjama have fled the provincial centre (November 2001)

- Voinjama used to be host to some 50,000 persons
- Today, it has no civilian population, no electricity or running water and no telephones, banks or shops
- The hospital and other infrastructure have been heavily damaged by fighting

"Voinjama, once among Liberia's largest provincial hubs and home to some 50,000 people, has been reduced to a ghost town due to a bitter civil war raging in the west African country.

Currently controlled by government forces, Voinjama today is a pale shadow of its former self -- with no civilian population, no electricity or running water and no telephones, banks or shops.

The town is populated solely by government troops and is their frontline position in the war-ravaged northern Lofa County where 'dissidents' are waging a bloody and protracted war against President Charles Taylor's forces.

Voinjama is 280 kilometres (175 miles) north of Monrovia. Fighting has been going on in northern Liberia since 1998 but has intensified since last September. According to the government, about 60,000 civilians have fled the area since then.

[...]

In its heyday, Voinjama, the regional capital was among Liberia's five largest provincial towns and boasted its own radio station.

There were five high schools, several elementary and junior high schools and scores of companies and private manufacturing units.

[...]

The Tellewoyan hospital, the largest public health centre in the area, is today a sprawling concrete shell with no roof.

A three-storey local administrative building – barely a few hundred yards from the hospital – is also in ruins. The walls of the building sport bullet marks. There are no doors or windows. The furniture was pillaged years ago." (AFP 21 November 2001)

Majority of "old caseload" internally displaced in and around Monrovia (1996-2000)

- ICRC reports that there are 3,000 IDPs in Monrovia from the south of Liberia
- According to government, as many as 100,000 internally displaced persons reportedly still in Monrovia
- At height of displacement, pre-war population of Monrovia tripled

"Today, Monrovia is still temporary home to almost 3,000 displaced persons from the south. For nearly a decade, unusable or dangerous roads have prevented these people from returning to their homes. But this is changing." (ICRC 2 March 2001)

"Many IDPs still remain in former VOA (Voice of America) compound with the Sierra Leonean refugees." (Nowrojee, 13 October 2000)

"The LRRRC says it needs to strengthen the capacity of the remaining communities to attract people, including some of the close to 100,000 IDPs in and around Monrovia . . ." (IRIN-WA 20 July 2000, para. 2)

"The pre-war population of Monrovia was estimated at 500,000. With the massive inflow of displaced persons, it has practically tripled in six years. 'The greatest concentration of displaced persons is found in Monrovia and its outskirts,' said Kallu Kalumiya, UNHCR's representative in Liberia...

[...]

UNHCR's office in Liberia, which opened in 1991, estimates the total number of displaced persons at around 1.2 million, of which 800,000 are in Monrovia or its suburbs; 110,000 in Margibi county, near the capital; 82,000 in Grand Bassa county (whose main city is the port of Buchanan); 80,000 in Cape Mount county, on the Liberian-Sierra Leone border; and 56,000 and 40,000 respectively in Bong and in Bomi counties." (Kpatindé 1996, "Internally Displaced Persons", paras. 9-10)

"Most of the internally displaced are currently on the fringes of the capital – Monrovia, in the cities of Harbel and Buchanan east of Monrovia, in the Kakata and Gbanga areas to the north-east of Monrovia, or in Tubmanburng and parts of Grand Cape Mount towards the north-west of the capital." (UNDP 1997, sect. A.1)

Disagreggated figures

45 percent of IDPs are children, says ACT (January 2003)

- The crisis displaced approximately 190,000 persons, with 45% percent children

"The crisis has caused the forced movement of approximately 190,000 persons comprising of more than 38-47,000 families. The gender distribution of this number is 30% women, 45% children and 25% men. Many of these victims of war have suffered multiple displacements in their efforts to escape the fighting. Additionally, another 100,000 persons are expected to arrive in Liberia fleeing the fighting in the Ivory Coast between November 2002 and March of 2003." (Action by Churches Together, 29 January 2003)

Aid agencies note that most of the IDPs out of Lofa county have been women and children (2001)

- Majority of IDPs crossing the St. Paul River bridge at Gbalatuah were women and children at mid-year
- They showed signs of extreme fatigue and physical weakness after having walked for days

"For people who have had to walk several days through forest after abandoning their villages, WFP food rations represent a vital lifeline. The majority are women and children; they have been showing signs of physical weakness." (WFP 1 August 2001)

"Population movements from Lofa County have temporarily stabilised, however, an estimated 10,000 people are thought to be on the road or gathered in inaccessible areas. Most of those who have managed to flee the violence and cross the St. Paul River bridge at Gbalatuah, which separates Lofa and Bong counties, are women and children, and many are separated from other family members. Others, rather than crossing the bridge, have reached the camps by trekking through deep forest." (ICRC 31 July 2001)

"The World Food Programme has finished delivering emergency rations to 40,000 Liberians fleeing fighting between government troops and dissidents in Lofa County, the WFP regional office in Abidjan reported on Thursday [14 June 2001].

It said 30,000 of the displaced were in Bong County and 10,000 in Grand Cape Mount County. WFP regional spokesman Ramin Rafirasme told IRIN that about 70 percent of them were women and children, living in the open air and in abandoned buildings." (IRIN-WA 14 June 2001)

PATTERNS OF DISPLACEMENT

General

Population movement during the new attacks by rebel movements (August-September 2003)

- Up to 10,000 people newly displaced near RIA, half-way between Monrovia and Buchanan during the week-end of August 23-24 by fighting between MODEL and GOL
- Attacks by MODEL at Lloydsville, 50 km southeast of Monrovia forced civilians to move toward Harbel
- Between 3,000 to 4,000 people are moving toward Salala from Gbatata where skirmishes have been reported between GOL and LURD
- The rebel advance near the town of Gbarnga, sent thousands of people fleeing on foot through driving rain towards the capital Monrovia
- The steady advance of LURD forces has panicked people living as far as south as Kakata, only 45 km from the capital, into leaving their homes.
- Other civilians from Gbatata are pouring into Totota a town surrounded by camps housing 75,000 IDPs
- Since the LURD are moving southwards, up to 150,000 people are likely to be displaced from Totota including IDPs in EJ Yancy camp

“Tens of thousands of frightened civilians continued to flee on foot from a fresh outbreak of fighting around the town of Totota in central Liberia on Thursday.

Relief workers said that over the past three days about 60,000 had fled on foot from Totota to Salala, 20 km further south along the main road to the capital Monrovia.

There they had crowded in an existing camp for people displaced by Liberia's 14-year-old civil war, tripling its population from 30,000 to 90,000 in just 48 hours.” (IRIN, 4 September 2003)

“According to international media reports, during the weekend of August 23-24, fighting between MODEL forces and GOL troops near RIA, half-way between Monrovia and Buchanan, led to the displacement of up to 10,000 people.

The attacks by MODEL forces took place at Lloydsville, near Cotton Tree and Owensgrove villages, 50 km southeast of Monrovia, and led to mass population movements toward Harbel.

Between 8,000 to 10,000 people fled their homes over the weekend of August 23-24 after fighting between GOL and MODEL forces near Buchanan, 120 km southeast of Monrovia.

There were also reports of skirmishes between LURD and GOL forces near Gbatata, approximately 100 km northeast of Monrovia. According to the UN's Special Representative for Humanitarian Assistance, between 3,000 to 4,000 people are on the road heading from Gbatata to Salala. ” (USAID, 27 August 2003)

“Rebels in northern Liberia have recently advanced against government forces on two fronts near the town of Gbarnga, sending thousands of people fleeing on foot through driving rain towards the capital Monrovia.

An IRIN correspondent who visited Totota, the next town in the rebel's line of advance, said the exodus of civilians began on Sunday and was continuing on Tuesday morning.

Gbarnga, which is held by the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebel movement, lies 150 km north of Monrovia. But the steady advance of LURD forces has panicked people living as far as south as Kakata, only 45 km from the capital, into leaving their homes.

Local residents and displaced civilians in Totota said LURD fighters had overrun Gbalata, 30 km south of Gbarnga on the main road to Monrovia, and were advancing towards Totota about 20 km away.

The town is surrounded by four camps housing an estimated 75,000 people displaced from their homes by 14 years of civil war.

Security sources said LURD fighters were also advancing on a second front north from Gbarnga towards Ganta, a town on the Guinean border. An isolated group of government fighters was still holding out there, they added.

Robert Sulu, a clan chief in Totota, said fleeing civilians began pouring into Totota from Gbalata on Sunday evening.

“The LURD are moving southwards. Some displaced people in EJ Yancy camp have packed up their belongings to start leaving the camp. Up to 150,000 people are likely to be displaced from this area,” he told IRIN.” (IRIN, 26 August 2003)

“Relief workers said thousands of people were fleeing the clashes near the airport.

“We have received reports that 8,000-10,000 people are again on the move in the southeast. We are preparing an immediate response to their humanitarian and protection concerns,” Ross Mountain, Special Humanitarian Coordinator for Liberia told IRIN.

[...]

The agreement, which paved way for a broad-based transitional government to be sworn in 14 October, was meant to signal the immediate end of armed conflict. It required all fighting forces to remain in their present locations and cease hostilities. (IRIN, 24 August 2003)

“Clashes between Liberian government troops and rebels in central Bong County have continued despite a peace agreement signed in the Ghanaian capital, Accra, on Monday, threatening 60,000 displaced people, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said.

MSF said the displaced, living in Maimu, Totota, and Salala camps, were just 45 kilometers from the frontline.” (IRIN, 21 August 2003)

Population movements during the July attacks on Monrovia (August 2003)

- Each attack has led to population movements both residents and IDPs, from north-west areas into Monrovia Central up as far east as SKD Stadium and Paynesville

“Population’s movements patterns

To clarify things, Monrovia has been divided in the following areas:

Zone 1 : Accessible Central Monrovia (Mamba point up to City Hall)

Zone 2 : Middle Monrovia (Sinkor, Congo Town, Old Road)
Zone 3 : East end of Monrovia (Paynesville, SKD stadium, ELWA area)
Zone Inaccessible : North and West of Central Monrovia (West point, Waterside), Somalia drive, Via Town, Clara town, Bushrod island.

Each attack on Monrovia has led to a wave of population movements (both residents and IDPs), basically from north-west areas (Bushrod, IDP camps, Clara) into Monrovia Central up as far east as SKD Stadium and Paynesville.

Host centres in Monrovia from the 1st wave were mainly composed by former IDP camps population and resident from Bushrod area. After the first cease fire and LURD's retreat behind Po river, former residents started returning to Bushrod. The same pattern was observed between the 2nd and 3rd attacks.

Following the 3rd attack, displacement influx from fighting area to Monrovia was on a smaller scale: people didn't have time to move and remained in LURD controlled area.

However new areas were affected by the fighting leading to a new influx from Somalia Drive towards the Eastern side of Monrovia (Paynesville). In addition, because of continuous shelling in western Monrovia, populations were displaced from northern centers (eg. Benson St., West point) to "safer" places." (Action Against Hunger, 5 August 2003).

IDPs on the move as a result of fighting around Buchanan (July 2003)

- Thousands of new IDPs are moving northwest, towards Habel and other areas in the Firestone Plantation Company
- Other IDPs from Monrovia are already taking refuge in the same area
- Almost 9,000 people fled into Buchanan, adding to an existing caseload of about 6,00 IDPs
- 50,000 are moving towards Harbel around Roberts International Airport
- Recent fighting on Monrovia's outskirts has forced civilians to flee Gardnersville to head towards Panesville

"Thousands of IDPs were reported to be on the move as a result of recent fighting around Buchanan, Liberia's second-largest city.

Most of the new displaced are said to be moving northwest, towards Habel and other areas in the Firestone Plantation Company, where thousands of IDPs are already taking refuge from fighting in Monrovia." (UN OCHA, 31 July 2003)

"With the capture of Buchanan, Liberia's second-largest city, by rebel forces, thousands more Liberians have been displaced.

Since fighting between government forces and Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) rebels intensified around Buchanan late last week, some 9,000 people have fled into that city, adding to an existing caseload of about 6,000 internally displaced persons.

[...]

The UN has received reports that over 50,000 persons including IDPs, a number of whom fled recent fighting in Monrovia, are moving towards Harbel around the Roberts International Airport, some 50 km east of Monrovia.

Recent fighting on the capital's outskirts has caused displacement as well. The UN has received reports that thousands of people are fleeing the war in Gardnersville, some 20 km east of Monrovia, and heading towards Paynesville, roughly 30 km southeast of the capital. Centres for the internally displaced in this region are already overcrowded with influxes of displaced persons from the recent fighting.” (UN OCHA, 29 July 2003)

Civilians pour in and out of Monrovia as the situation becomes desperate (July 2003)

- The desperate situation in Monrovia forces civilian to flee towards Harbel, a town 30 km to the southeast
- About 9,000 IDPs have fluxed into Buchanan as a result of the recent round of fighting in Monrovia
- Over 50,000 persons including IDPs, a number of whom fled recent fighting in Monrovia are said to be moving towards Habel around the Roberts International Airport
- Hundreds of residents from Brewerville, Banjor and the St. Paul Bridge moved again with their luggage and returned to a number of already overcrowded displaced centres in Monrovia suburbs, including D-Tweh High and Boastwien High Schools
- Other people moved in the direction of Greystone, seeking safety

“The situation inside Monrovia has become so desperate that many civilians are pouring out of the city towards Harbel, a town 30 km to the southeast. It is situated near Liberia's international airport and is the headquarters of the huge Firestone rubber plantation.

Displaced people have also been streaming into Harbel from the opposite direction to escape fighting around Buchanan, Liberia's second city, which fell to the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) rebel movement earlier this week.

Samuel Browne, the head of the Liberia's Refugees, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), the government agency responsible for coordinating help for the displaced, said on Thursday that nearly 20,000 people had moved into Harbel and its surroundings.

"It is hard to give any definite figure at the moment, because people are coming every day in hundreds from Grand Bassa (the county of which Buchanan is the capital)," Brown said.

An IRIN correspondent who visited Harbel, said the town was overwhelmed by displaced people, many of whom had sought shelter from the daily tropical downpours in a school and industrial buildings on the Firestone rubber estate.

Smell-No-Taste, a residential quarter next to the airport, was also packed with the displaced people. However planes were still able to take off and land.” (UN OCHA, 31 July 2003)

“Over this past weekend heavy fighting was reported around the Liberian Agriculture Company (LAC), about 45 kilometers east of Buchanan in Grand Bassa County. According to an official of the local Red Cross Chapter in the area, speaking via cellular phone today, inhabitants of the city are panic stricken by the news of the fighting.

Buchanan is the second most populated city in Liberia next to Monrovia. The Red Cross official said other areas attacked by MODEL are Kamos Town and Moweh all in Grand Bassa County.

The report also stated that about 9,000 IDPs have fluxed into the city as a result of the recent round of fighting. The city had a previous IDP caseload of about 6,000. The official IDPs fleeing the fighting in

Monrovia have also fluxed into the city and two trucks load of them arrived in Buchanan. Buchanan is about 50 kilometers north of the Robert International Airport in Habel.

[...]

The latest reports from Buchanan indicate that Monday morning, people were seen in droves as MODEL rebels advanced close to Liberia's second largest port city. The report further says the rebels were operating in Big Joe Town, some 15 kilometers east of the city and sound of sporadic gunfire could be heard in Buchanan.

Over 50,000 persons including IDPs, a number of whom fled recent fighting in Monrovia are said to be moving towards Habel around the Roberts International Airport.

The latest fighting comes just a day when the rebel faction said it would respect the call for a ceasefire but would seize the port of Buchanan should government forces continue to attack their position. Meanwhile, the enclave around the American Embassy, paying host to thousands of IDPs, is relatively calm Monday morning.

Though, there are reports that LURD rebels were withdrawing from their position around Bardnersville vicinity north of Monrovia and were moving towards the Stockton Creek close to their stronghold at the port of Monrovia. There is no indication so far that the rebels would comply with US government call for a truce." (UN OCHA, 28 July 2003)

"Over the weekend, thousands of people streamed through the streets of a neighborhood housing diplomatic compounds seeking shelter behind their gates.

The U.S. diplomatic residential compound at Greystone is already crammed with over 10,000 displaced persons from two recent rounds of fighting.

Hundreds of residents from Brewerville, Banjor and the St. Paul Bridge moved again with their luggage and returned to a number of already overcrowded displaced centres in the city suburbs, including D-Tweh High and Boastwien High Schools. Today, more people were moving in the direction of Greystone, seeking safety. (UN OCHA 21 July 2003)

Desperate IDPs numerously displaced, sometimes within the same month since the beginning of the 14 years old war (June-August 2003)

- IDPs in Bong county have already been forced to flee four time for the past two years alone
- Since June, some 100,000 were displaced for the third time from Duala, Caldwell, Logan Town and Gardenersville suburbs to Monrovia centre

IDPs in Bong county have already been forced to flee four time for the past two years alone

Since June, some 100,000 were displaced for the third time from Duala, Caldwell, Logan Town and Gardenersville suburbs to Monrovia centre

"Displaced Liberians in Bong county have already been forced to flee as many as four times in the past two years alone, and now, when their health situation is especially dire, their safety is under threat again," Pierre Mendiharat, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) head of mission in Liberia said.

"If the fighting gets closer, we fear a mass displacement of civilians," he added." (IRIN, 21 August 2003)

“Thousands of terrified civilians on Saturday headed for the centre of the Liberian capital, Monrovia, fleeing the city's western suburbs as fighting between Liberian government soldiers and rebels escalated around Virginia and St. Paul Bridge, 10 km from the city centre.

The civilians told IRIN that the rebels belonging to the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), were trying to dislodge the government fighters from the bridge and were heading closer to the city centre.

This is the third time since June that the LURD has come close to the capital. In the last two attacks, hundreds of civilians were killed and at least 100,000 people displaced. Some of the displaced are camped in at least 84 sites in the city while those from the western suburbs had returned home. Both times, the rebels said they withdrew to avoid a humanitarian disaster, but government said they were pushed back.

Duala, Caldwell, Logan Town and Gardenersville suburbs were the scene of chaos early on Saturday as the civilians, who have been displaced for the third time within a month and carried mattresses and other meagre properties on their heads, walked in long lines to the city centre. Crying children trotted by their sides.” (IRIN, 19 July 2003)

As the government lose many areas in the north and south, fighting moves to the suburbs of the capital Monrovia pushing IDP to the centre (June 2003)

- IDPs are forced to flee LURD rebel which controls much of northern Liberia and which is now fighting its way into the western outskirts of Monrovia
- 100,000 IDPs fled the camps to the centre of Monrovia
- IDPs are congregating at schools in the city centre and at the Samuel Doe sports stadium to seek shelter.

"LURD, which occupies much of northern Liberia, has been fighting its way into the western outskirts of Monrovia for the past week, sending more than 100,000 displaced people fleeing for safety to the city centre. The rebel onslaught on the capital also triggered an exodus of diplomats and expatriate aid workers from the city. More than 500 foreign evacuees were due to arrive in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, aboard a French warship on Wednesday. " (UN OCHA, 11 June 2003)

“Monrovia city centre remained shuttered up, with no water or electricity and all petrol stations closed. The price of a 50 kg bag of rice on the black market nearly doubled from US\$ 20 to between \$30 and \$40, while the price of a gallon of petrol shot up from US\$3 to US\$7.

With no water running in the taps people were forced to rely on wells, many of which were contaminated. The only place to buy goods openly was from a handful of market stalls and petty traders plying the streets with handcarts.

IRIN's correspondent in Monrovia warned of an impending food crisis in the city of nearly one million people if the situation continued to deteriorate. "People will soon die of starvation," he said. [...]

The 100,000 residents of camps for displaced people on the outskirts of Monrovia who fled to the city centre when the rebel push on the city began last week, continued congregating at schools in the city centre and the Samuel Doe sports stadium to seek shelter.

More than 5,000 gathered at the sports stadium, where they were issued with a food ration of five cups of rice each.

Police ambulances meanwhile ferried a steady flow of dead and wounded government soldiers and militiamen from the front line to Monrovia's John F Kennedy hospital and another medical facility at the executive mansion, the official residence of the president. Officials refused to give details of casualties." (UN OCHA, 9 June 2003)

Fighting moves southwards, pushing many displaced people in the same direction (2001-2002)

- Fighting in the northwest of the country in May 2002 sent large numbers of people south towards Monrovia, and west to Sinje in the direction of Sierra Leone
- In May 2002 a fifth IDP camp is established in Montserrado county near Monrovia
- In February 2002, fighting at Klay Junction (47km from Monrovia) forced thousands of people to former IDP camps in the capital
- In January 2002, thousands of IDPs fled the temporary site at Sawmill in Bomi County, and gathered at Klay Junction
- Tension had been steadily building up in the south of Lofa County throughout January 2002
- Fighting between pro- and anti-government forces in north-western Liberia in November - December 2001 caused IDPs to flee the camps of Jenemana and Bopulu for a temporary site at Sawmill

"This new phase of the conflict has led to further population displacements as IDPs have been forced to move again and the overall caseload has increased. The current IDP population is estimated to be up to 80,000 persons. IDPs have been widely dispersed in different directions, stretching the response capabilities of humanitarian organisations.

In Bong County, the Belefani camp populations (School camp and Market camp approx. 2,000 families), together with the Gbarnga resident population (approx. 7,000 families), IDP populations at TV Tower, Cari camps (approx. 4,500 families) and local surrounding villages (500 families) fled the fighting and moved in four different directions:

- northeastwards towards Ganta in Nimba County. Approximately 3,000 families arrived and in turn caused a snowball effect whereby a number of Ganta residents left for Saniquellie and others carried on to Côte d'Ivoire;
- northwards over into the Youmou district of Guinea. The borders with Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire are open while the Guinean border remains officially closed;
- southwards towards Botota, Grand Bassa County and eventually Buchanan (approximately 4,000 families);
- towards Monrovia. Most of the 4,500 families from TV Tower, Cari I and II have moved in this direction. Increasing the sizes of the sites on roads to Monrovia (Totota, Kakata).

In Montserrado County, the current IDP populations staying in camps around Monrovia (approx. 20,000 persons) are not yet stable. There are still new arrivals following recent upheaval in Suen/Mecca, Artington and Gbah. In Grand Cape Mount County some 1,000 IDP families and 750 refugee families are staying at Sinje camp." (ICRC, 24 May 2002)

"Thousands of residents fleeing the fighting in Gbah Tubmanburg, Suehn-Mecca District, and Lofa Bridge, have been moving west towards Sinje and south towards Monrovia where they have sought refuge in the

Montserrado camps. There were reports of a worsening humanitarian situation as those fleeing the fighting were without their belongings and food; new arrivals have strained the already inadequate Facilities. Most displaced persons that moved towards the Sinje area were reported to be crossing the border into Sierra Leone.

Some displaced IDPs during the fighting in Gbarnga were reportedly returning to CARI to assess the security situation to gather vegetables from their backyard gardens. An unspecified number of these IDPs were reportedly sleeping in the camp.

The Administration of Phebe is considering returning to the hospital under a skeleton staff until the security situation improves. Currently, the hospital is operating at Totota.

LRRRC has declared Sergbeh within the vicinity of Blamasee in northern Montserrado, a new camp. This will be the 5th camp to be established for IDPs. According to LRRRC, about 25,000 IDPs comprising the residual caseload of IDPs in camps around Monrovia and new influxes registered at Ricks and Zuannah Town will be moved to this camp. At the moment, Concerned Christian Council has allocated 25 acres of land for the purpose and has laid out plots. Transit shelters are being constructed to accommodate some of the influxes." (UN OCHA, 31 May 2002)

"Recent fighting between Liberian government troops and LURD rebels in the northwest of the country has driven thousands of people into camps which lack adequate facilities for them.

Relief workers estimate that 12,000 villagers have fled the Guthrie and Gbah region since May 12 to escape clashes between President Charles Taylor's troops and rebels of Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD).

The rebels have been trying to win control of the provincial town of Tubmanburg, 65 kilometres (40 miles) northwest of Monrovia. Villagers from the area have fled to Zwannah Town on a road junction about 10 kilometres from the capital.

'The displaced began arriving in large numbers last Thursday, when rebels attacked Guthrie and Gbah. We have registered more than 1,000 new arrivals only today,' Sekou Sheriff, Liberia Refugee Agency officer in Zwannah Town's displaced people's camp, said Tuesday.

Many other people who had sought refuge in Sinje, about 30 kilometres further north, had headed for neighbouring Sierra Leone, Sherriff said.

'Most displaced Liberians are moving towards Sierra Leone because they are cut off from Monrovia,' he added." (AFP, 28 May 2002)

"Some of the thousands of desperate people fleeing recent fighting in Klay Junction, a crossroads some 47 km north of the capital Monrovia, have started arriving in former camps for the displaced near Liberia's capital, the head of the Liberian refugee agency, Samuel Brown, told IRIN on Monday.

'They are moving mostly because of fear,' he said.

Brown, the executive director of the Liberian Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission, said many of the internally displaced persons were returning to camps in Zuana Town, Finje, Jah Tondo Town and the Ricks Institute, which had been temporary homes for people displaced by earlier emergencies. He said many others were still in the forests but would likely make their way to the relative safety of Monrovia. The new arrivals are being registered and Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) is providing emergency aid, he said.

Residents of Klay and surrounding villages fled when anti-government dissidents of the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy movement attacked the crossroads on Thursday when food aid was distributed, Brown said. 'They burnt cars, took away relief food aid,' he said.

There are also 20,000 IDPs heading for Bong Country, he added, having fled earlier attacks at Sawmill, two weeks ago. They will join another 35,000 IDPs already in Bong.

'The situation is very bad,' he said." (IRIN, 11 February 2002)

"Thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) fled a temporary site some 100 km north of the Liberian capital, Monrovia, on Sunday following exchanges of gunfire near the area, humanitarian sources said on Monday.

By most accounts, some 20,000 IDPs have left the site, Sawmill, and are currently gathered at Klay Junction, 50 km to the south. However, one humanitarian NGO that sent a team to investigate the situation estimated the number of people at Klay Junction at between 6,000 and 8,000. It was still not clear on Monday whether the entire population of Sawmill had deserted the camp.

The latest population movement started early Sunday morning after the IDPs and local residents heard gunshots nearby, sources said. As has been the case for several weeks now, no one was sure who was fighting whom. Some people referred to fighting between groups within the military, while others felt there had been clashes between the army and dissident groups opposed to the government of President Charles Taylor.

Several NGOs told IRIN that the security situation had tightened. Security agents blocked most humanitarian workers from going to Sawmill and Klay Junction on Monday, and also prevented IDPs from moving closer to Monrovia, the sources said." (IRIN, 28 January 2002)

"Tension has been steadily building up in the south of Lofa since January 24, culminating in the Sawmill attack which took place during the night of the 26th to the 27th. The displaced population (close to 3000 people), blocked by Liberian authorities near Sawmill, had been growing increasingly worried by days of frequent gunfire originating just a few miles away. When the violence finally reached their camp, they were forced to quickly evacuate. Panic immediately reached the neighbouring towns and villages of the region, namely Tubmanburg (the largest city of west Liberia with close to 30,000 inhabitants). By Sunday, the teams of Action Against Hunger already present in the area witnesses an endless line of displaced people fleeing down the road leading south.

Claire Magone, head of program, comments: 'Only a few days ago it would have been possible for the displaced people to leave the area of conflict calmly and with their entire family. But once again the military held the civilians back until it was too late, until gunshots were literally heard in the town, leaving the population with no other choice but to chaotically retreat in the middle of the night. And once again, families were separated and dispersed in the panic, leaving many parents without news of their children'.

These populations have been stopped again at the military barrage of Kle Junction, located some 45 kilometers from Monrovia. Once again, they are caught in between the rampant insecurity of the region they have just fled and the restrictions imposed by the authorities, forbidding them to go beyond Kle Junction." (AAH, 31 January 2002)

"Relief agencies have reiterated calls to Liberia's government and the international community for support for the relocation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to safer areas.

Following recent fighting in northwestern Liberia between pro- and anti-government forces, IDPs fled the camps of Jenemana and Bopolu for a temporary site at Sawmill, an area that is closer to the capital,

Monrovia. Both Jenemana and Bopolu, which are now empty, were eventually looted and destroyed, WFP's Deputy Head for West Africa, Arnold Vercken, said on Monday.

He said Sawmill had more than 10,000 IDPs and that agencies in the area thought that some 4,000-5,000 more could be on their way to the site, which is about 70 km from Monrovia. Sawmill could have as many as 20,000 IDPs in the next few weeks if the insecurity continued, he added.

According to Vercken, Sawmill is a transit town for soldiers heading for the battlefield. He said that while the site had running water, wood for building houses and firewood, security was a source of concern, and the UN had called on the government to move the IDPs to Clay Junction, about 50 km from Monrovia." (IRIN, 26 December 2001)

"On Friday 7 December 2001 ACT member, Lutheran World Service - Liberia Program reported that fighting had broken out on 23 November 2001 in Fassama (100km north of Bopolu) between government forces and a dissident faction belonging to the Liberia United for Reconstruction and Democracy (LURD). About 2,000 people, mostly women and children are reported to have made the 100 km journey to Bopolu in search of security, food, and other humanitarian support. While LWF/WS was preparing to assist the newly arrived in Bopolu, internally displaced people (IDPs) started fleeing the camp at Bopolu after claiming that they had heard heavy gun fire coming from North of Bopolu, in the town of Gaingbai.

It is estimated right now that over 5,000 people are moving south of Bopolu towards the Tubmanburg area and Northeast of Bopolu towards lower Bong County. The movement of the IDPs from Bopolu continued throughout Friday and part of Saturday (7 - 8 December) and it has been reported that the camp is now completely deserted. LWF/WS was the last NGO to evacuate the camp at midday, Saturday, 8 December. Other NGOs that evacuated the camp included ICRC, AFC and Save the Children, UK. The people on the move are in total panic and these are mostly women and children who claim to have lost most what little they possessed.

LWF/WS is monitoring the movement of the IDPs towards Tubmanburg and to Bong Mines in the Lower Bong County and at the same time trying to locate potential sites for establishing new camps. In order to do this, and assist the IDPs, LWF/WS are appealing for emergency funding. As a new appeal for 2002 is under preparation, the agency has requested for a Rapid Response Fund for immediate assistance to the affected people." (ACT 11 December 2001)

Many IDPs forced to hide in and trek through forests to safety (2001)

- Civilians flee quickly with few personal belongings
- Many hide in and trek through forests to avoid human rights abuses and detention by government as well as insurgent forces
- In certain cases, IDPs forced to walk for days and sometimes weeks to safety

"When the fighting started around our village, my daughter Nyapu and I decided it was time to leave," Kedeh recalled. Her eyes wander, betraying nervousness as she speaks, 'We carried what little food we had with us,' she adds. Wrapped in a cloth she conceals the two stumps which are all that remain of her arms. Her daughter later explained that her father had attempted to murder Kedeh by cutting off her arms with a machete before killing himself. No one ever found out why.

Nyapu went on: 'We walked for a whole week but needed to rest often. You see, I was pregnant at the time. Then the LRRRC [Liberian Repatriation, Reintegration and Resettlement Commission] found us and transported us along with other IDPs here to TV Tower Camp.'" (IFRC 29 October 2001)

"When fighting broke out in Lofa County at the beginning of the year, Korto [a displaced woman] left in a hurry. Crossing the Saint Paul River into the next county, she got separated from her two children, her sister and her brother. Until she'd done all she could to find them, she didn't want to carry on with the rest of the group. But she was alone in the forest, it was dark and she kept going round in circles. Eventually she abandoned the search and headed south towards the capital, Monrovia. A family have taken her in for the time being, and she's eking out a living selling scraps of charcoal." (ICRC 29 August 2001)

"For people who have had to walk several days through forest after abandoning their villages, WFP food rations represent a vital lifeline. The majority are women and children; they have been showing signs of physical weakness." (WFP 1 August 2001)

"Population movements from Lofa County have temporarily stabilised, however, an estimated 10,000 people are thought to be on the road or gathered in inaccessible areas. Most of those who have managed to flee the violence and cross the St. Paul River bridge at Gbalatuah, which separates Lofa and Bong counties, are women and children, and many are separated from other family members. Others, rather than crossing the bridge, have reached the camps by trekking through deep forest." (ICRC 31 July 2001)

"The clashes between Government forces, armed groups and the displaced populations have now spread throughout Lofa County (located in the north of the country). After walking through the forest for three weeks, 35,000 people have now been settled into camps set up on the Jenne Manna, Bopulu and Gbarnga roads." (MSF 3 July 2001)

"Among the 10,000 people who have arrived at Gbarnga, most are showing signs of physical weakness - some of them are suffering from diarrhea. After leaving their native villages three weeks ago, they were obliged to walk for several days through the forest." (MSF 21 May 2001)

IDP accounts testify to the difficulties faced during periods of flight (2001)

- Testimonies describe desperate circumstances leading to flight
- Accounts also reveal how persons were killed and families separated along the way

Testimonies collected by MSF:

"Many of the people of Voinjama were fleeing. They said the dissidents had taken the town and were heading for my village. I collected my children and my grandchildren, a few things, and a little rice, and we left, along with hundreds of other people. Along the road, we passed through empty villages. Some had been destroyed. To the east of the Lofa River, there's nobody left and some villages were burned down. We were able to survive with what we had and what we found along the way. We had to leave those who were too old or sick behind us, in the village or along the road.

Emmanuel, 34, displaced from the Voinjama region, has also come to live at Cari:

On April 12, the town of Voinjama was attacked. My brother was killed. They took everything from us: our things, our money, sometimes our identity papers. I'm blind. It was very hard to walk for days and days under such conditions. To guide me, my young brother and I held on to each end of a stick. When we got to the bridge, things got even harder. They kept my family but let me go on because I was blind. On the other side, I found myself alone. I couldn't eat or drink, or find a place to sleep. I was completely lost, and I heard people panicking - desperately trying to get into the trucks taking people to Cari. I stayed at Gbalatua, a camp next to the bridge, for a week and a half. Then my younger brother came and brought me here to Cari. MSF has given us a shelter, and life is gradually getting going again. But I don't know when I'll be able to

go home, and, anyway, what would I find when I got there? A town and my house destroyed? We'll have to start over. It's the same old story, again and again.

Sonnae is a 35-year-old woman. On June 8, she arrived in Bopulu, to the north of the capital, Monrovia. Before fleeing, she had run a small business in a village close to Voinjama, in Lofa County, in northern Liberia. She had been living alone with her children since her husband left, in 1990.

"On April 23, there were a lot of people leaving. I decided to join them because I'd heard shooting and the noise of firearms in the distance. I left with my four children, taking almost nothing with me. We started walking and walking. I had to leave my father at home. He's too old to keep up with us for long. My brother stayed with him. I was terrified, but I had no choice but to leave. People said that this time we wouldn't be able to hide and wait for everything to calm down.... Everybody was running around, shouting. We walked for over three weeks, sometimes stopping to rest a little. It was really hard for the children. We walked through deserted villages, and some that had been partly destroyed. I fell ill, and we hid until I got better. We didn't eat much, because there was almost nothing to eat. Sasazu was the first place I found that still had people living in it. They helped us, but I had a few problems with the soldiers there. They took my son's shoes, by force. I don't know why they did it, perhaps just because of the war.

We left quite a few people behind us - mainly people who were old or sick. I saw an old lady die on the road. She just couldn't go on any more. A little farther on, at Fassama, we were brought here, by truck, to Bopulu. Right now, we're living in the school, until the shelters are built. In the mornings, we clear out so that the kids can have their classes. When they're finished, we go back in. There's not much to eat, but it's better than before, anyway. I'd like to know what's happened to the rest of my family." " (MSF 19 July 2001)

During civil war of 1990s, IDPs fled primarily to Monrovia (1995-2000)

- Displaced families seek safety in ECOMOG-controlled areas
- Internally displaced squat in abandoned buildings
- The Liberian population is very mobile and many upcountry families have relatives in the city

"Humanitarian agencies estimated in July 1997 that by the end of the civil war over 130,000 IDPs had crowded into areas around Monrovia protected by the West African peacekeeping force, ECOMOG." (IRIN-WA 30 October 1998, "Liberia")

". . . 750,000 internally displaced persons who have flocked to the ECOMOG controlled areas of Grand Bassa, Margibi and Montserrado counties, 320,000 of who are living in shelters." (DHA 1 September 1995, para. 2)

"In Liberia, about 500,000 IDPs fled to the capital, Monrovia, during the fighting from 1990 onwards. The Liberian population is very mobile and many upcountry families have relatives in the city. With only a few exceptions, protection was effectively ensured by the presence of ECOMOG forces." (Nowrojee 1998, p. 15)

PHYSICAL SECURITY & FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Physical security

Armed government fighters sought refuge in IDP camps, provoking panic among the inhabitants (August 2003)

- IDPs traumatized by about 100 government fighters who, fleeing the rebel advance entered an IDP camp around Totota with their weapons

“About 100 government fighters fleeing the rebel advance sought refuge in one of [the 4 camps surrounding Totota] on Sunday night, provoking panic among the inhabitants.

“The fighters entered the camp with their weapons - AK 47s, grenades and other automatic guns. It was traumatizing for the displaced people living here,” Esther Washington, the camp protection officer told IRIN.” (IRIN, 26 August 2003)

UN OCHA expresses concern over IDP protection in Monrovia (August 2003)

- IDPs in Monrovia are continuously under harassment by armed men who regularly visit their encampment
- Armed men are seen among almost 8,000 IDPs who reside at the Wellington Apartment close to the OCHA office
- Militiamen commandeered a vehicle belonging to an NGO, ACF while on duty to dispense humanitarian assistance to thousands of IDPs in Monrovia and its environs

“The continuous harassment of civilians, the looting of their properties and regular visits to IDP encampment sites are amongst protection concerns in Monrovia. Armed men in government control areas have been engaged in systematic looting of business places and homes.

There are also reports of rapes, most of which are not reported because of the stigma attached to it. At the Wellington Apartment close to the OCHA office, armed men are often seen with arms amongst almost 8,000 IDPs who reside at this place.

It is believed many of them live with the IDPs in this apartment. As a deterrent measure, the Front Line Commander of the Government, Gen. Benjamin Yetan recently began shooting on sight both civilians and soldiers caught looting. This followed several warning by the General to soldiers and civilians to desist from looting businesses and homes or they would face stringent military measures.” (UN OCHA, 5 August 2003).

“Militiamen commandeered a vehicle belonging to an NGO, ACF in Monrovia on Saturday while it was on duty to dispense humanitarian assistance to thousands of IDPs in Monrovia and its environs.

The ACF Head of Office, Frederick Bordeau said he was in contact with senior security officers in the Liberian Government to try and recover the vehicle. Over 30 vehicles belonging to the UN agencies and

NGOs have been looted since fighting between LURD and government forces started in Monrovia in June 2003." (UN OCHA, 4 August 2003).

IDP women traumatized by the 14 years war as they have continuously been victims of sexual violence, harassed and beaten (August 2003)

- In the stadium in Monrovia where IDPs are living under wretched conditions, out of 1,502 women who registered with CCC, 626 had been raped
- Amnesty International in Liberia, said within a week, 40 women and 20 girls had reported being raped in the Samuel Doe Stadium.
- The majority of IDP women forced to watch as their husband were killed are widows
- Many IDP women are severely depressed, deeply fearful and need psychological care and trauma counseling
- Aids workers say both government and rebel fighters, many of them child soldiers as young as 12 are preying on IDPs

"They gather in The Women's House of Comfort, one of several tents outside the Liberian capital Monrovia's SKD sport stadium. Some of the women are alone, many however have small infants.

This is Miatta Roberts' whole world right now - trying to bring solace and comfort to hundreds of women who have ended up here at the sport stadium after fleeing their homes. She is a counsellor and the women and children's project supervisor for Concerned Christian Community (CCC), a local partner of the global alliance, Action by Churches Together (ACT) International.

The women in the tent today represent only a small number of the some 30,000 displaced people who are still living in the stadium under wretched conditions. So far, 1,502 women have registered with CCC. Of these women, 626 had been raped. "We have cried too much," says Miatta. "We need divine intervention and grace to bring healing to our country."

That grace comes in the form of women like Miatta, whose own home was looted during the dark days of fighting in Monrovia. "The first day when I came here I could not work," she says. "All day long I just cried when I heard their stories."

CCC's priorities are psychosocial care and trauma counselling - a service that is desperately needed in the country right now and one that the NGO has been involved in since the mid-90s. Miatta points out that the majority of the women, both young and old, registered with CCC, are now widows. Many of them were forced to watch as their husbands were killed. Many of them were severely beaten. Today, many of them are withdrawn, severely depressed and deeply fearful.

An entire country brutalised by a few bent on causing mayhem and destruction.

[...]

At The Women's House of Comfort, Jainjay Move, a trained physician's assistant is on hand to help in the CCC tent-compound, treating women who are ill, referring the most serious cases to a local clinic or hospital. Part of her care includes awareness training and education.

Miatta Roberts says that with hardly any cash left (the Liberian banks are still not operational), CCC's national director, Miriama Brown managed to find enough money to buy rice for the women registered with the agency to feed themselves and their families. But rice has to be cooked, and Miatta goes on to

recount a case where two days after the small distribution, one woman still had her ration. When asked why, she explained that she did not have the money to buy the charcoal needed to cook on.

Miriama Brown, herself says that apart from the desperately needed basics - food, clothing, blankets, soap and other non-food items, the women need specialised trauma counselling that will help heal the deep psychological wounds these women have suffered.

Later, once the healing has started, basic empowerment and skills training such as soap and grease production, tie-dying and sewing, and cooking and baking can help teach these women to help themselves. Small grants will enable them to start a small business, which in turn, CCC believes, will contribute to the healing process.

[...]

There is a quiet murmur when the co-chair for this shelter's internally displaced persons (IDPs), John Willie tells them that two ACT members are responding to their plight. LWF has delivered BP5 high protein biscuits and Norwegian Church Aid, along with another international NGO is helping set up a pump and water bladders to provide safe drinking water." (ACT, 29 August 2003)

"The shooting may have stopped in the Liberian capital Monrovia, but idle gunmen, many of them as young as 12, continue to rape and sexually harass the vulnerable inhabitants of its crowded camps for displaced civilians.

"Sexual violence has been a major feature of the Liberian war," Ross Mountain, the United Nations Special Humanitarian Coordinator in Liberia told IRIN.

Aid workers say both government and rebel fighters, many of them child soldiers as young as 12, are preying on the 200,000 to 450,000 displaced civilians crowded into schools and other public buildings in the capital to seek shelter.

Harry Evans, the head of Amnesty International in Liberia, said within the last week, 40 women and 20 girls had reported being raped in the Samuel Doe Stadium. This houses up to 50,000 civilians who fled rebel attacks on Monrovia in June and July.

"Most of the incidents involved armed militias who entered the camp disguised as displaced civilians," Evans told IRIN. "The women and girls were raped when they went to take a bath."

The lawless, armed and often drunk fighters, most of whom are under 18, threaten to kill those who refuse to grant them sexual favours, he added.

Concerned Christian Community (CCC), a local relief agency that offers psychological and social counseling to displaced civilians, said it had counseled 1,500 women and girls in Monrovia since 5 June, of whom 626 were victims of rape.

"The victims were aged 8-54 years," CCC chief executive Mariam Brown told IRIN. "Some of the cases involved multiple rape of both mother and daughter and some had suffered the same ordeal before elsewhere," she added.

Brown said 60-65 percent of the rape victims were suffering from infections, mainly vaginal diseases. Four of them required urgent surgery, but CCC did not have the US \$2,400 necessary to pay for their hospitalization, she noted.

“Most of them were raped by government fighters or rebels. They each have gruesome stories to tell, but even where they know who did it, they cannot do anything because of the fragile security situation,” said David Foday, CCC's senior regional officer in Monrovia.

“We offer some medical help but encourage the victims to go to the National Aids Control Programme because we are worried that many of them could have contracted HIV/AIDS,” he added.

[...]

“Throughout Liberia’s 14 years of war, rape was common, But it was mainly women that were targeted,” one relief worker told IRIN. “Recently more younger girls, boys and old women are reporting having been abused by young male fighters,’ he added.

In 2001, Amnesty International documented a string of unlawful killings, torture and rape carried out by both government and rebel forces in northern Liberia. Its report was entitled "Liberia: Killings, torture and rape continue in Lofa County."

Amnesty said then: "The scale of rape by security forces against women and girls - some as young as 12-years-old - raises concerns that it's used as a weapon of terror in the civilian population. Women and girls have been raped- often by gangs of soldiers - after fleeing the fighting and being arrested at checkpoints." (IRIN, 27 August 2003)

IDPs targeted and killed as fighting goes on (July 2003)

- The mortars clearly targeted areas of high concentration of IDPs such as Greystone and Masonic Temple, Diplomatic Mission areas, NGO headquarters and civilian areas in central Monrovia
- On July 26 a mortar hit Newport Road School where some 6,000 IDPs were living, killing eight and injured ten
- 20 IDPs out of some 25,000 were killed in Greystone IDP camp alone and their bodies placed outside the US Embassy Gate N° 1
- Heavy smoke could be seen coming from the IDPs camps of Blamese, Wilson and VOA

“On Monday July 21 alone, when a mortar hit a nearby building housing displaced people, the MSF Mamba Point hospitals received 155 wounded civilians and 13 dead. This past Saturday (July 26), Liberian National Day, a mortar hit Newport Road School where some 6,000 displaced persons were living, killing eight and injuring ten.” (MSF, 30 July 2003).

“Last week Monday Monrovia saw its heaviest mortar attacks with one mortar landing inside the US Embassy compound, hitting one residence. It was estimated that up to 40 mortars landed in the Capital with heavy concentrations at Mamba Point, Ducor Hotel area, Lower Broad Street and Centre Street. 20 displaced people were killed in Greystone alone and their bodies placed outside the US Embassy Gate No. 1.

The Mortars clearly targeted areas of high concentration of IDPs such as Greystone and Masonic Temple, Diplomatic Mission areas, NGO headquarters and civilian areas in central Monrovia. Hundreds of civilians died during this latest round of fighting and subsequent mortar attacks with many more wounded.

On the same day, shells landed in Greystone IDP camp, when there were over 20,000 displaced in there. Hundreds of people died immediately and their bodies were badly mutilated, many of them women and children.

Over 60 persons wounded that day were treated and about 9 others in serious condition were referred to JFK hospital in Sinkor. Ambulance services continued throughout that day - Merlin and MERCI, international NGOs used 2 vehicles to ferry wounded persons to hospitals.

By Wednesday the shelling had reduced but the danger came from "stray bullets" which has continued to terrorize the people in Greystone compound and Masonic Temple with one bullet reported to have penetrated the Merlin roof narrowly missing a patient and a staff member.

On Friday morning there was bombardment of over 20 heavy shells and some mortars landing around the city centre - several in Randall, some in Ashmun streets, Newport, Mamba Point / Coconut plantation area. Vai town and around Stockton Creek Bridge/Cimenco Factory also witnessed heavy gunfire on Thursday as government forces engaged in fighting with LURD and attempted to take back the Bushrod Island and the Freeport from the New Bridge and Cimenco on Somalia Drive.

Most Agencies had started putting up sand bag walls lining up the most exposed areas in their buildings to protect themselves and preparing for the worst.

During the week sporadic shelling continued with one mortar landing directly outside the EC office gate, killing one young mother and wounding two others.

Other mortars landed outside Le Point Restaurant/GTZ Office wounding three IDPs walking on the street. This type of mortar fire continued throughout the week killing people indiscriminately and wounding other civilians throughout the City." (UN OCHA 26 July 2003)

"Over the last two days, rebels have bombarded civilian areas in Monrovia with shells and mortars, killing and severely injuring hundreds of people. Mortar bombs exploded in the Greystone Compound, near the US Embassy in Monrovia today, where around 25,000 internally displaced people (IDP) are sheltering, killing over 25 people, reports Merlin, the UK-based charity which provides healthcare in crises." (Merlin, 21 July 2003)

"Displaced persons fleeing the fighting in Brewerville have reported that the camps of Blamese, Wilson and VOA have been attacked and some shells have landed in the camps. Heavy smoke could be seen coming from the camps. Residents of Duala, Logan town and Gardnersville areas are also moving into the city.

In addition, all United Nations compounds in Monrovia are housing displaced persons, including the compound of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Monrovia, where some 800 displaced persons have sought safety.

As of last week, there were an estimated 200,000 IDPs scattered in 92 temporary shelters in the city. An estimated 50,000 IDPs remained in the old camps of Brewerville (Blamese, Plumkor, Seigbeh). In Bong county there were 56,000 IDPs in Totota and 35,000 IDP in Salala.

In Margibi county there were 6,800 IDPs in Kakata camp and in Grand Bassa county there were an estimated 11,000 IDPs in Buchanan. As of today, however, the total number of displaced persons is unclear". (UN OCHA 21 July 2003)

"Thousands of displaced population were streaming into the city. IDPs fleeing the fighting in Brewerville have reported that the camps of Blamese, Wilson and VOA have been attacked and some of the shells have landed in the camps. Heavy smoke could be seen coming from the camps. Residents of Duala, Logan town and Gardnersville areas are also moving into the city." (UN OCHA, 19 July 2003)

Liberian rebels accused of maiming civilians and army soldiers (April 2003)

- LURD rebels attacked IDPs camps around Monrovia, captured women, children IDPs and government soldiers to hack their limbs

“Rebels from the Liberia United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) have been accused of maiming civilians and army soldiers, as the insurgents forge ahead with their battle to oust President Charles Taylor. Some 27 victims of the fighting between the rebels and government troops were undergoing treatment at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Monrovia, medical staff told AFP Thursday.

Many of the victims -- mostly women and children -- said their limbs had been hacked off by LURD rebels during recent fighting at camps for displaced persons near the capital.

A 12-year old amputee, Jack Boakai, told reporters, "I was captured by the rebels who chopped my left leg off with a dull cutlass when they recently attacked the Combat Camp displaced center", five kilometers (3 miles) west of Monrovia.

Boakai had been forced to give up his schooling and flee his hometown of Tubmanburg, in Bomi County, when it was overrun by the rebels.

"Now my future is bleak, I don't know what to do," he lamented. A woman identified only as Josephine said: "LURD forces amputated my right foot after I was captured at the Jah Tondo displaced camp in Virginia, outside Monrovia."

And Colonel John Sackie, a Liberian government soldier, recounted how rebels had maimed him after he was captured at an army checkpoint near Monrovia.

"My right foot was maimed by LURD rebels after I was captured when the rebels overran the government troops positions at the Klay checkpoint in Bomi County", some 45 kilometers (27 miles) west of Monrovia. Both Sackie's "hands were tied and cut-off with a cutlass," he added tearfully.

After that, he explained, a letter was given to him by the rebels, who told him to take it to President Taylor.

"I gave the letter to my commander, who read the contents," he explained with tears running down his cheeks. It bore the simple message: "LURD rebels will soon be in Monrovia."

The chief medical officer at the hospital, Mohammed Sheriff, told AFP: "The amputees ... are responding to treatment," but urged the international community to "help them become productive after being discharged."

Last week, Liberian Information Minister Reginald Goodridge accused LURD rebels of chopping off the hands of their victims, as happened in the 1990s in Sierra Leone.

Last week, Liberian Information Minister Reginald Goodridge accused LURD rebels of chopping off the hands of their victims, as happened in the 1990s in Sierra Leone.

Accompanying journalists on a tour of hospitals in Monrovia, Goodridge said LURD have "imported the Sierra Leone style of chopping off the limbs of victims to the Liberian conflict." (AFP, 18 April 2003)

The UN and the WFP demand security guarantees from government

- Aid agencies concerned over the protection of IDP camps and humanitarian personnel
- Violence sparked fresh waves of internal displacement
- 200 humanitarian workers lost contact with their offices during heavy fighting around the eastern town of Zwedru (March 2003)
- 3 aid workers found dead as a consequence of the Toe's Town attack of 28 February 2003

“Relief workers said fighters loyal to President Charles Taylor had ransacked the local offices of various humanitarian agencies in Harper before fleeing. Locally-based Liberian staff of the UN refugee agency UNHCR, the World Food Programme and the Danish Refugee Council had fled and their whereabouts remained unclear, they added.” (UN OCHA, 19 May 2003)

“With armed militia now setting their sights on relief camps and transit centres, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has called on the Government of Liberia to provide security guarantees before it will resume food distributions to refugees and internally-displaced people (IDPs) in camps near the capital, Monrovia.

As the long-running conflict between government troops and insurgents in Liberia continues to rage, WFP's country director, Justin Bagirishya, today reported a direct link between food distribution and attacks on refugee and transit camps. "Following a violent assault on a camp," he said "refugees would be forced to flee the fighting, abandoning recently-distributed food, which would then be seized by the armed combatants." This grave revelation recently prompted WFP and its partners to call a consultative meeting with the Liberian Government, including the head of the Liberia Refugees, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission, a state body responsible for the fate of refugees in the country. At that meeting, the agencies requested security guarantees from the government.

"The protection of UN staff, non-governmental organizations and beneficiaries of relief food distribution is the responsibility of the government," said Mr. Bagirishya, stressing that humanitarian agencies had neither security forces nor military escort. "We work under a guaranteed security situation created by the host government."

WFP and other humanitarian organizations have lost access to 70 per cent of the country during the conflict. Earlier this year, Joh Rondo, Ricks and Wilson Corner camps, all near Monrovia, came under assault before or during food distribution.” (UN News, 5 May 2003)

“According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), widespread fighting in western, northern and eastern Liberia is cutting off those most in need from humanitarian aid. At the same time, that violence has sparked fresh waves of internal displacement and refugee movement, which aid agencies fear may outstrip their already dwindling supplies. [...]

The UN is also seriously concerned over the security of humanitarian personnel. Many of the 200 humanitarian workers who lost contact with their respective offices during heavy fighting around the eastern town of Zwedru on 27 March, remain unaccounted for. The environment in the area has become so dangerous that many aid agencies have had to withdraw their workers.” (UN OCHA, 9 April)

“The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) confirmed the deaths of Kaare Lund, a Norwegian and two Liberian nationals, Emmanuel Sharpulo and Musa Kieta, who at the time of the attack were visiting ADRA supported projects and paying salaries of their workers. It is now confirmed that 31,500 USD in cash, and a laptop computer are also missing.” (UN OCHA, 15 March 2003)

Forced conscription in IDP camps by local militias loyal to the government, reports UN OCHA (February- April 2003)

- In Montserrado county, an IDP camp have been targeted and 1000 IDPs have been abducted by LURD
- Young and able-bodied IDPs at Jah Tondo Displaced Camp (17 km west of Monrovia), recruited by armed militias to fight alongside government fighters
- IDPs forced to conscription in response to the upsurge in fighting between loyalist forces and LURD

“Local militias loyal to Liberia’s government have been harassing internally displaced persons (IDPs) and forcibly recruiting them to fight against the rebel Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD). However IDPs in camps around the Liberian capital, Monrovia, have complained before the authorities.

The IDPs told IRIN over the weekend at the Jah Tondo Displaced Camp situated about 17 km west of Monrovia that following an upsurge in fighting in the west, armed militias had been entering the camps and conscripting young, able-bodied men to fight alongside government fighters.

IDPs from the Wilson Corner, Water-In-The Desert and Risks camps, which are close to Jah Tondo, also indicated that they had also been harassed and intimidated by militias in the camps who sometimes regarded IDPs as "suspected rebels". They said the situation was unbearable and urged the Liberian government to stop the militias from attacking them.

Sam Brown, the executive director of Liberia Refugees, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission, which has responsibility for the IDP Camps, told IRIN on Monday that he regretted the harassment and recruitment of IDPs by the militias.

He said his agency was working with other relevant state security agencies and an inter-agency working group on the formulation of strategies to curtail the "illegal actions against IDPs" by militias. He said the Liberian government had an obligation to protect IDPs.

The interagency working group is made up of UN agencies, NGOs and government ministries under the overall coordination of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OCHA-Liberia.

Last week, Liberia's deputy defence minister for operations, General Austin Clarke, had warned government fighters to refrain from conscripting civilians and threatened to take drastic disciplinary action against those who continued to do so. His warning had followed reports of conscriptions in Monrovia in response to the upsurge in fighting between loyalists forces and LURD, which began in early February in western Liberia. (IRIN 19 Feb 2003)

“Fighting between Government forces and the LURD escalated this month with killings, abductions and looting reported in Bomi, Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, Montserrado, Margibi, Bong, Gbarpolu and Lofa counties. Reports have also been made of deliberate attacks against members of the civilian population in and out of camps by both sides to the conflict. Following fighting on Tuesday, 25th March in Montserrado county, reports have been made of an IDP camp being targeted and according to Government information, over 1000 IDPs have been abducted by LURD. These numbers have not been independently confirmed and the fate of the victims remains unknown.

There are also reports of forced conscriptions of young men and women under the age of 18 from various camps. The fear of conscription is all too evident in the camps as this becomes more and more wide spread. With the constant and increased movement of populations coupled with the real threats posed to the lives of humanitarian workers, it is becoming increasingly difficult for protection activities to be effectively undertaken.” (UN OCHA 5 April 2003)

“Local militias loyal to Liberia's government have been harassing internally displaced persons (IDPs) and forcibly recruiting them to fight against the rebel Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD). However IDPs in camps around the Liberian capital, Monrovia, have complained before the authorities. The IDPs told IRIN over the weekend at the Jah Tondo Displaced Camp situated about 17 km west of Monrovia that following an upsurge in fighting in the west, armed militias had been entering the camps and conscripting young, able-bodied men to fight alongside government fighters.

IDPs from the Wilson Corner, Water-In-The Desert and Risks camps, which are close to Jah Tondo, also indicated that they had also been harassed and intimidated by militias in the camps who sometimes regarded IDPs as "suspected rebels". They said the situation was unbearable and urged the Liberian government to stop the militias from attacking them.

Sam Brown, the executive director of Liberia Refugees, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission, which has responsibility for the IDP Camps, told IRIN on Monday that he regretted the harassment and recruitment of IDPs by the militias. He said his agency was working with other relevant state security agencies and an inter-agency working group on the formulation of strategies to curtail the "illegal actions against IDPs" by militias. He said the Liberian government had an obligation to protect IDPs. [...]

Last week, Liberia's deputy defence minister for operations, General Austin Clarke, had warned government fighters to refrain from conscripting civilians and threatened to take drastic disciplinary action against those who continued to do so. His warning had followed reports of conscriptions in Monrovia in response to the upsurge in fighting between loyalists forces and LURD, which began in early February in western Liberia.

[...]

UNHCR in Monrovia reported on Monday that the fighting along the border had caused 6000 Liberians to cross over into Sierra Leone. Other battlefronts, according to the defence minister, included Gbah, a town situated between Grand Cape Mount and neighbouring Bomi County on the highway linking Monrovia to the Sierra Leonean border, and Tubmanburg in Bomi county, 60km west of Monrovia." (UNHCR, 17 February 2003)

IDPs to be relocated because of security reasons (November 2002)

- About 15,000 IDPs from Lofa County were occupying the grounds of Central Agricultural Research Institute in Bong County need to be relocated to allow the Institute to carry out its research work
- About 8,000 IDPs from Ganta-Nimba County evicted from schools buildings in September (2002), were occupying the Methodist Church compound and warehouses need to be relocated

"Displaced population from Lofa County are occupying the grounds of Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) in Bong County. About 15,000 persons are in two camps of CARI 1 & 2 supported by aid agencies. The Ministry of Agriculture appealed for the relocation of the IDPs to other areas in order to carry out research work in the institute. The Ministry has received funds from Taiwan government to rehabilitate the centre. Humanitarian actors involved in the camps are in a dilemma as to whether to continue to establish or rehabilitate the infrastructure in the camps that was destroyed during the attack on Gbarnga.

About 8,000 IDPs in Ganta - Nimba County are occupying Methodist church compound and warehouses after they were evicted from school buildings in September when the schools reopened in the area. Ganta city authorities are not in favour of establishing camps in the border town and have requested the Government to relocate them elsewhere. IDPs on the other hand, have expressed the wish to remain in Ganta until the security improves in their home areas. IDPs in CARI and Ganta camps are mainly from Lofa County where the fighting is still going on. There is need to address the relocation issue of these IDPs." (UN, OCHA, November 2002)

IDP camps are increasingly targeted by armed militia (2002-2003)

- LURD rebels attacked the Jah Tondo town IDPs camp

- IDPs forced to flee within their borders
- Villages and IDP camps in southern Lofa County, and subsequently in Bong County, have been emptied and reportedly looted by both government and dissident forces - forcing many civilians to seek refuge in camps around Monrovia
- Unknown numbers of civilians from Lofa County are believed to be hiding in the bush
- In May 2002, armed activities in Cape Mount and Bomi Counties resulted in a high military presence in the Sinje Camp, causing panic among both refugees and IDPs living there
- Government forces have reportedly been looting equipment from IDP camps as well as aid agency property in camps around Monrovia
- Unknown numbers of civilians from Lofa County are believed to be hiding in the bush
- In May 2002, armed activities in Cape Mount and Bomi Counties resulted in a high military presence in the Sinje Camp, causing panic among both refugees and IDPs living there
- Government forces have reportedly been looting equipment from IDP camps as well as aid agency property

“Liberian rebels Wednesday attacked the Jah Tondo Town displaced persons camp in Brewerville, close to the capital of the west African country, witnesses said.

“We heard shooting and saw a huge flame in Jah Tondo town displaced camp. Later, we heard that another displaced camp, Water in the Desert, also in the vicinity of Brewerville, was under attack,” refugee Victor Nyalley told AFP. The fighting was moving towards the VOA displaced persons which hosts more than 20,000 Sierra Leonean refugees, he said.”(AFP, 9 April 2003)

“A recent attack by Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebels at a centre for internally displaced persons (IDP) close to Monrovia drove some 25,000 people out of their temporary shelter” [...]

An increasing number of Liberians are also being forced to flee within their own borders, many for the second or third time. Fighting near the northern town of Gbarnga has displaced more than 20,000 people, who then sought shelter in Ganta. When fighting spread to Ganta, some 15,000 of these new arrivals were forced to flee again, along with some 30,000 residents of that town”. (UN, 9 April 2003)

"Since July 2000, thousands of civilians have been forcibly displaced as violence broke up again in the North Western region of the country. Fresh displacement of local population as well as secondary displacement of IDPs have taken place throughout the year and are still on going due to fighting in and around Lofa County.

As a result, villages and IDP camps in the southern part of the Lofa County were emptied and allegedly looted by members of militia and/or dissident groups. Many civilians, both old displaced as well as residents, have sought protection as IDPs in existing and new camps around Monrovia. Others have found safe-haven as refugees in Guinea and Sierra Leone, and large numbers of Sierra Leonean refugees have returned to their country. Most worrying is the situation of an undetermined number of Lofa County residents who reportedly remain hidden in the bush fearful of abuses and exactions inflicted on people attempting to cross borders by armed elements.

Since the Mission departed from Liberia, attacks and threats against IDP camps and villages in the Bong County, a region hitherto unaffected by the conflict, have been increasingly documented. As a result, growing numbers of IDPs continue to concentrate in camps around Monrovia. This trend is likely to continue, at least in the medium term. In view of the above, the humanitarian intervention is currently de facto limited to this area plus some areas within Bong County, where most IDP camps are now located." (OCHA IDP Unit, 21 May 2002)

"There are also reports of armed activity in Tubmanburg and surrounding areas. Armed activities in CapeMount and Bomi counties have led to high military presence at the Sinje Refugee camp causing panic among the refugees and IDPs. In a related development, the diamond rich Lofa Bridge has also been under the control of dissidents since 18th May and fighting is reported in the towns of Madina and Ba displacing more population to the camps around Monrovia.

There are also reports of Government security forces systematically looting Gbarngah, Phebe and environs. Offices of humanitarian organizations have been vandalized; as plumbing and electrical fittings have been removed. WFP lost a generator and computers. Three water pumps installed by OXFAM at the CARI I IDP camp and four bundles of corrugated zinc sheets for the Concerned Christian Community (CCC) shelter at the TV tower IDP camp were reportedly looted. While in Ganta on a needs assessment mission, some of the looted items like farming tools (hoes, cutlasses, and diggers) belonging to WVI were seen at the market.

Merlin, the only health NGO operating in Grand Bassa County and catering to the health needs of the recent influx of IDPs, reported that on 21st May at 3:30 a.m. armed men believed to be local government security personnel, threatened their staff and took away a motorbike from Merlin's office at the Buchanan Government Hospital. The armed men were later seen riding the bike enroute to Monrovia. Due to insecurity, Merlin is considering scaling down its operations in Buchanan." (UN OCHA, 23 May 2002)

Liberian rebels attack refugee camp and abduct five aid agency nurses (June 2002)

- In June 2002, LURD rebels attack Sinje camp - home to both Sierra Leonean refugees and Liberian IDPs - and abduct five NGO nurses
- Weeks of intense negotiations result in the nurses' eventual release in September

"The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) today appealed to Liberian rebels to release a group of nurses who had been abducted from a refugee camp near the Sierra Leone border. Rebels had attacked the Sinje refugee camp yesterday, taking away five local nurses and sending an estimated 11,000 Sierra Leone refugee into flight, a spokesman for UNHCR said at a press briefing in Geneva. The camp had been cut off from aid for over a month because of sporadic fighting in the surrounding area and the new conflict has rendered any repatriation by road impossible.

The rebels, from a group that calls itself Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), acknowledged that they were holding the nurses, who work for the non-governmental organization MERCI, a partner of the UN agency, spokesman Kris Janowski said." (UN News Service, 21 June 2002)

"Following weeks of intense negotiations, five Liberian nurses abducted June 20 by Liberian rebels were handed over to UNHCR late Monday on the Guinea-Liberia border. A UNHCR staff member reported that the nurses were 'fine.'

UNHCR staff in the southern Guinea town of Nzerekore said the return of the nurses took place near the border town of Macenta on Monday afternoon. The nurses were being taken Monday evening to Nzerekore." (UNHCR, 2 September 2002)

Lack of food pushes people to risk their lives, says MSF (May 2002)

- Food scarcity has forced civilians to travel through dangerous zones where they are the targets of human rights abuses, and has also caused civilians and soldiers to fight over food

- For those IDPs stuck in Lofa county, the rainy period - or 'hunger gap' (June-September)- will be particularly critical
- MSF criticises the international community for 'politicising' humanitarian assistance in Liberia, with poor civilians being punished for the politics of their President

"Since 2000, the war has greatly destabilized Lofa County, and more recently has made steady progress into Grand Cape Mount, Bomi Hills and now Bong counties, causing people to flee.

However, most people fleeing today had already left their homes several months ago, and had been surviving hidden in the bush. They had not been able to reach the camps in Bong, Bomi and Grand Cape Mount counties (Tarvey, Jene Manna, Sawmill, etc.) or those closer to Upper Lofa (Belefanai) due to the location of the front lines. Many families had been attacked by several different groups during the past year, and these attacks not only involved abductions but also rapes, killings and burning people alive in their homes. Families have had great difficulty trying to escape.

The driving cause pushing people to risk their lives to travel through such dangerous areas seems to be lack of food. New arrivals report that the food situation is getting difficult. Some say civilians and soldiers have been fighting over food. Also the time frame for crossing into Guinea is critical. Once the rains begin, the river between Lofa and Guinea will not be passable, and this would mean being stuck in Lofa during the most difficult period of the hunger gap (June - September).

In Liberia, people's right to seek refuge, either within Liberia or in countries of asylum, has been blocked continuously and by all parties to the conflict. Abductions, rape, executions and the use of civilians as human shields are all common occurrences.

The current lack of protection and limited assistance for the Liberian people also draws attention to the mandated agency OCHA that fails to take on their responsibility.

The international community, having successfully politicized humanitarian relief money in the Liberian context, has a responsibility for the plight of these people today. All of the reasons that have been put forward for not funding non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are hypocritical when looking at their policies in the sub-region. This results in the people, especially the poorest of the poor, being punished for the politics of their President." (MSF, 24 May 2002)

Amnesty International documents human rights abuses carried out in the armed conflict (April-August 2002, May 2003)

- Amnesty International calls upon the Contact Group for Liberia to focus on ending human rights abuses
- Civilians fleeing fighting between the LURD and Liberian security forces between April and August 2002 have again been targets of human rights abuses by both parties to the conflict
- Abuses include summary executions, sexual and gender-based violence, abduction of civilians and harassment

"As the International Contact Group on Liberia meets in Brussels on 12 May to continue efforts to resolve the internal armed conflict - and its regional repercussions - it should give priority to the worsening human rights and humanitarian crises afflicting the country.

"Concerted and sustained efforts are being made by the international community to find a viable solution to the crisis in Liberia and the wider region. The challenge is to ensure effective and immediate action to alleviate the suffering of Liberian civilians," Amnesty International said.

"This requires the political will to confront those directly responsible for human rights abuses as well as those indirectly contributing to the crisis by providing political and military support to various parties to the conflict, the organization added.

Hostilities - which had already exacted a terrible toll on the civilian population - have worsened since January. Fighting has spread to areas previously unaffected as the armed opposition group Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) has advanced towards the capital Monrovia. In addition, a new armed group has emerged in the east along the Côte d'Ivoire border - the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL). Extension of the conflict almost throughout the country has considerably increased the number of Liberian civilians and refugees of other nationalities now at risk.

Both government and armed opposition groups are committing human rights abuses. Civilians are being killed, either deliberately or caught in cross-fire, raped, forced to leave their homes, abducted and forced to fight or carry looted goods. Forcible recruitment, including of children under the age of 18, has become rampant, particularly among displaced people. Those resisting recruitment have been killed by government forces.

The International Contact Group must continue to condemn the violence against civilians caught in the conflict and insist that those responsible are held accountable

"The government of Liberia must be pressed to cooperate fully with the United Nations Peace-building Support Office (UNOL) which has a specific mandate to enhance human rights," Amnesty International said. "This must include monitoring and reporting human rights abuses."

Amnesty International remains seriously concerned that refugees and internally displaced people are particularly vulnerable and in urgent need of protection. The number of displaced people has swollen dramatically. Camps for the displaced and refugees from Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone have been deliberately attacked or caught in fighting, forcing their occupants to flee yet again. Access by humanitarian agencies, whose staff have also been attacked and killed, is now severely restricted.

Some of the more than 40,000 Liberian refugees who had decided to return to Liberia, despite conflict there, to escape fighting in Côte d'Ivoire, have again been forced back across the border into western Côte d'Ivoire where they are at particular risk from both Ivorian government forces and armed opposition groups. Liberian refugees in the Nicla camp in Côte d'Ivoire are daily being forced to join armed groups.

"Urgent measures must be taken by governments in the region to protect refugees and internally displaced people and create conditions which allow provision of emergency humanitarian assistance," Amnesty International said.

Amnesty International welcomed the United Nations Security Council's resolution of 6 May which extended the arms embargo on Liberia - which applies to both government and armed opposition forces - for another year.

"There is no doubt that arms and ammunition continuing to reach those fighting in Liberia are directly contributing to the killings, torture, rape, abductions and forcible recruitment of civilians," Amnesty International said.

The government of Guinea has provided logistical and military support to the LURD and MODEL is reported to be receiving support from the Ivorian government.

"The International Contact Group should reiterate in the strongest possible terms the Security Council's call for all states in the region to cease military support for armed groups in neighbouring countries," Amnesty International said.

Amnesty International is also calling on the delegation of the United Nations Security Council, which begins its visit to West Africa on 15 May, to give the highest priority to the protection of civilians and to raise these issues directly in its meetings with heads of state in the region.” (AI, 12 May 2003)

"Amnesty International has received reports of civilians who have been targets of killings, torture, including rape, forced recruitment and arbitrary arrest or who have been caught in cross-fire as they tried to flee fighting between the LURD and the Liberian security forces between April and August 2002.

Summary executions, deliberate and arbitrary killings and threats to life

During the fighting in Sawmill near Tubmanburg, Bomi County, central Liberia, in mid-April 2002, Amnesty International received reports of the arrests and executions of men who refused to fight with Liberian security forces. On 19 April 2002, **Fofoe Kanneh**, a Mandingo and former member of ULIMO-K, a former faction in the Liberian civil war, was arrested by Liberian security forces and taken to Sawmill, the frontline of the conflict at the time, and forced to fight. While there, he was shot in the back of the neck and the abdomen three times and then dragged off the main road to die. He was reportedly shot for making the following comment: 'Even if you force people to fight and they are not willing to do so, you'll be creating more rebels against yourself, because they may end up joining the rebels. I really do not want to fight again, I am doing my business.' In early April in Sawmill it was reported that 11 boys below the age of 18 years were recruited to fight by Liberian security forces. They included: **Othello Kyne**, 15, **Anthony Boima**, 15, **Machael Tarlue**, 17, **Osman Turay**, 16, **Haji Gray**, 16, **Francis Toe**, 16, **Ballah Davis**, 17, and **Christopher Bema**, 14. It was reported that four of the 11 were summarily executed when they refused to fight.

On 15 May, in Gardnersville, Paynesville, and West Point, suburban areas of the capital, Monrovia, 13 men between the ages of 15 and 31 years were arrested and forcibly recruited to fight. On their way to being brought to the front line in the northwest of the country, several escaped. Some of those who escaped reported that Liberian security forces had summarily executed four men who had refused to fight. They were killed in the town of Gbah on the road to Bo-Waterside, near the border with Sierra Leone.

Looting regularly takes place after either the LURD or the Liberian security forces invade a village and all the residents abandon it. Sporadic shooting often follows looting as members of both sides fight over looted goods, further putting civilians at risk of being caught in the cross-fire. Many looted goods find their way to Guinea where Liberian refugees have witnessed Guinean soldiers purchasing them. Reportedly, those in command of the Liberian security forces have summarily executed individuals including some members of the security forces under the guise of punishing them for looting. Amnesty International received reports that at least five people were threatened with summary execution for looting during the fighting in Gbarnga on the orders of a high-level member of President Charles Taylor's presidential guard. **Edward Karju**, **Alvin Zarwolo**, and **David Kpantie**, three members of the presidential guard, and two civilians, including **James Sassie**, were reportedly arrested, tied up, and threatened with summary execution. Local human rights defenders in the area learned of this and pressurized local governmental officials to stop the executions.

Amnesty International has received reports that in May 2002 Liberian security forces killed 11 people of Mandingo origin in the town of Gbaney and another eight in the town of Gbeka, which are both close to Gbarnga, Bong Country.

Sexual and gender-based violence, including rape

During fighting which took place in Gbarnga in mid-May 2002 tens of thousands of civilians fled north to Ganta in Nimba County near the border with Côte d'Ivoire. As civilians fled, up to 20 women reported that they were stopped by Liberian security forces and raped on 9 May 2002. Amnesty International has recent reports on at least three of these cases: **FK**, a 21-year-old, was raped by a member of the Liberian security forces behind the Gbarnga Methodist School; **AG**, aged 19, was gang-raped by four government-allied

militia inside the Gboveh High School building; and **HF**, aged 33, was abducted and held for two days while she was repeatedly raped by a member of the Anti-Terrorist Unit (ATU), part of the Liberian security forces, near Cuttington University College.

There are also reports of displaced and fleeing women and girls being captured and forced to render sexual services. There is at least one case of a girl of Mandingo origin who was taken from her father by a high-level government official as they tried to cross into Guinea. The girl is currently still being held in Nimba County.

Abduction of civilians

In mid-May 2002 a group of around 60 blind Liberians and a British Catholic priest caring for them, Father Gerry Jenkins, were reportedly abducted by the LURD in the town of Tubmanburg, the scene of intense fighting. Father Gerry Jenkins was released, unharmed, in Conakry, the capital of Guinea, two weeks later. The group of blind people were found in late July 2002 when government forces took control of Tubmanburg from the LURD. An LURD spokesman claimed that the LURD had not abducted the group but had helped them to move to safety away from the fighting. The precise circumstances of the conditions under which they were held, however, remain unclear.

On 20 June 2002 the LURD attacked Sinje refugee camp, 80km northwest of Monrovia. As a result, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that around 24,000 Sierra Leonean refugees and displaced Liberians fled the camp, moving either in the direction of Sierra Leone or towards Monrovia. During the attack, the LURD looted and destroyed the camp and abducted five nurses who were working with a Liberian non-governmental organization, Medical Emergency Relief Cooperative International (MERCIC). The nurses were released near the border with Guinea on 2 September 2002 into the care of UNHCR.

In many reported cases of human rights abuses, it is unclear whether government forces or the LURD were responsible, as many combatants do not have uniforms or other means of identification. For example, on 16 July 2002, at least 20 Sierra Leonean civilians were abducted from three villages in Kailahun District, eastern Sierra Leone. Following an investigation, Sierra Leone government officials concluded that the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) were responsible. In early September 2002, however, the United Nations (UN) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that the LURD had abducted the civilians. There are very few independent sources of information in areas of fighting, where many human rights abuses take place. This means that it is often difficult to obtain verifiable information about abuses or to attribute responsibility.

Harassment

Other human rights abuses carried out by Liberian security forces and the LURD during the fighting in Gbarnga included harassment, destruction of property, burning of houses, detention at checkpoints, and extortion of personal belongings from fleeing civilians. During the attack on 9 May 2002, as civilians fled, Liberian security forces stopped and asked them to produce identification cards which they were forced to hand over together with a fine of 25 Liberian dollars. If civilians did not have any identification they were detained by Liberian security forces for questioning. On 10 May 2002 Liberian security forces erected a barricade at St. Johns Bridge, just outside of Gbarnga on the road to Ganta. News of the barricade forced fleeing civilians into the bushes to hide and bypass the road in order to avoid harassment at the barricade." (Amnesty International, 1 October 2002)

Human Rights Watch reports that both government forces and rebels have committed war crimes (2001-2003)

- HRW has documented that the Liberian government and, to a lesser but still significant extent, the LURD forces, have continued to systematically violate their obligations under international law
- Between June 2001 and June 2002, HRW collects testimonies stating that Liberian government forces have carried out numerous summary executions of civilians, widespread rape, looting and burning of villages, and forced conscription
- LURD forces have also carried out serious abuses, but to a lesser extent

“Five nurses held for three months in 2002 by Liberian rebels have provided detailed accounts of their mistreatment, Human Rights Watch said today.

The women, who worked for the Liberian organization Merci, were given a “choice” by the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) of either joining them as fighters or becoming “wives” of rebel soldiers. All of them were physically, sexually and psychologically abused.

Refugees now resident in Sierra Leone who fled Liberia between July and October 2002 also provided eyewitness accounts that LURD forces systematically imposed forced labor on threat of wounding or death. They told of abductions, “disappearances,” and forced recruitment by LURD rebels in Liberia’s Lofa County.

“The treatment of these women is just one example of the terrible abuses being committed by LURD,” said Peter Takirambudde, executive director of the Africa Division at Human Rights Watch. “Such crimes must stop.”

Human Rights Watch has also documented that armed forces loyal to President Charles Taylor have continued to commit massive violations of human rights and humanitarian law, including summary executions; indiscriminate killing of civilians; intentional targeting of civilian areas; widespread rape and other kinds of sexual violence including sexual slavery; abduction and “disappearance” of both adults and minors; illegal detention; torture; forced recruitment; and forced labor. Survivors reported civilians being locked into houses and burned alive. Government troops routinely targeted fleeing civilians, and abducted boys for forced conscription and girls to serve as “wives.”

The members of government and rebel forces responsible for this pattern of ongoing violations continue to operate with total impunity, devastating the Liberian civilian population and challenging the fragile peace of Liberia’s neighbors— Côte d’Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Guinea. In the context of the new armed conflict in the sub-region, these ongoing violations threaten not only those who remain in Liberia, but also those refugees who had previously fled to Côte d’Ivoire.

The Liberian government and, to a lesser but still significant extent, the LURD forces, have continued to systematically violate their obligations under international law. Both have been repeatedly called upon to protect civilians and cease any and all violations of human rights and humanitarian law, and both have consistently failed to do so.

“If the international community insists on turning a blind eye to the brutality which continues in Liberia, the stability of the entire region will be threatened,” said Takirambudde. “This will mean that innocent civilians will continue to be killed, raped, enslaved, forcibly conscripted and disappeared.” (HRW, 6 March 2003)

“Liberian government forces fighting against rebels from the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) have committed war crimes and other serious human rights abuses, including summary executions of scores of civilians, widespread rape of girls and women, and looting and burning of villages. Hundreds of civilians have been forcefully conscripted and sent to the battlefield in an arbitrary manner, without advance notice or any set procedures, and often with little or no military training. The LURD forces have also carried out serious abuses, although to a lesser extent, including summary

executions of alleged government collaborators, rape, and the forced recruitment of civilians, including child soldiers.

[...]

Scores of testimonies taken by Human Rights Watch from June 2001 through March 2002 in Liberia and neighboring Sierra Leone and Guinea, provide compelling evidence that both Liberian government forces and LURD forces have committed war crimes and other gross abuses of human rights against civilians. In researching this report, Human Rights Watch interviewed more than three hundred victims and witnesses of the abuses, as well as Liberian army and Ministry of Defense officials and LURD commanders.

The picture that emerges is one of government troops and pro-government militias summarily killing, torturing and abusing civilians, raping women and girls, and abducting civilians for forced labor and fighting in the northwest. They have systematically looted and burned towns, and in some cases government troops at checkpoints have blocked displaced civilians from moving to safety. Government soldiers systematically extort money and other goods from those seeking refuge. Citing the rebel threat, the Liberian government is remilitarizing society-remobilizing ex-combatants, and permitting the proliferation of militia groups. The government has forcibly recruited hundreds of young men in a manner not consistent with their rights. There are no publicly established and clear criteria and procedures governing conscription, while recruits are not given any advance warning of conscription, any indication of how long they will be forced to serve, nor any idea of where they will be taken for training or for combat. In many cases, they effectively receive no training before they are deployed. In the course of combat, they are often ordered to commit human rights violations.

LURD rebel forces have also committed gross abuses against civilians, including summary killings, abduction, rape, abuses in the context of forced recruitment of men and boys, and forced labor. Rebel abuses appear to be less widespread and systematic than those committed by government forces. A large proportion of LURD fighters were previously affiliated to the two factions of the rebel United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia (ULIMO) during the pre-1997 civil war." (HRW, 1 May 2002)

"In the nine-page letter to the Security Council, Human Rights Watch documented how, between April and June 2002, Liberian government forces committed scores of war crimes and other serious abuses against civilians in the northwest of the country. Fighting has raged in the country since the start of a rebel incursion in mid-2000.

Recent victims described to Human Rights Watch how members of the government army and pro-government militias executed numerous civilians, shot and beaten to death males of all ages for resisting conscription, carried out widespread rape of women and girls as young as twelve, subjected hundreds of civilians to forced labor, and restricted the movement of hundreds of civilians intending to flee as refugees into neighboring Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Another disturbing development is the renewed use of child combatants by members of the Liberian security forces. Children are once again being recruited to form part of the army and pro-government militias.

In the face of renewed rebel action, the government of Charles Taylor has become increasingly intolerant of dissent. Since the imposition of a state of emergency in February 2002, the government has steadily imprisoned, harassed, and beaten individuals that have been critical of its policies.

Human Rights Watch also expressed concern about the fate of five nurses from the Liberian humanitarian organization, Merci, who were abducted on June 20, 2002 from the Sinje camp area by the Liberian rebels. The Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebels have admitted holding the nurses in their northern stronghold of Voinjama. In addition, Human Rights Watch continues to receive credible reports of continued forced conscription of civilians, including children, by the LURD." (HRW, 19 July 2002)

Liberian security forces responsible for human rights abuses against IDPs in Liberia (December 2001)

- Anti-Terrorist Unit (ATU) appears to be responsible for many of the abuses
- Amnesty has documented continuing human rights abuses, including torture, rape, and forced recruitment
- All ethnic groups are apparently at risk
- Arrests of suspected "dissidents" are carried out in arbitrary manner

"The international community must take urgent and concrete steps to protect vulnerable populations from further human rights abuses," said Amnesty International today following a recent visit to Liberia where researchers found that civilians have become the main targets in the armed conflict in Lofa County.

The armed conflict, which last week reportedly spread to Gbopulu county between Liberian security forces and armed opposition groups based in Guinea, has been going on since early 1999. Amnesty International has documented continuing human rights abuses, including torture while in incommunicado detention, rape of women and girls, forced military recruitment of men and boys, and killings, going back to at least mid-2000.

In recent weeks, the targeting of civilians has become increasingly arbitrary, with all ethnic groups at risk. Previously, members of the Mandingo ethnic group were the primary targets and victims of human rights abuses.

Those responsible for these abuses include Liberian security forces -- the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), Anti-Terrorist Unit (ATU) and national police -- and armed opposition groups based in neighbouring Guinea. The Sierra Leone armed opposition Revolutionary United Front (RUF), fighting alongside Liberian security forces, has also been responsible for human rights abuses against Liberian civilians.

Since the beginning of December 2001, government sources have reported large-scale killings and other attacks on civilians in Gbopulu county by 'dissidents'. The main armed political group, the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), has denied responsibility. There has been no independent confirmation of the large-scale killings.

Amnesty International is alarmed by the continuing lack of protection for civilians. Humanitarian agencies working in camps for internally displaced people (IDP) in Gbopulu county have had to leave temporarily due to the conflict. The lack of international presence in the camps raises urgent and serious concerns for IDP protection. Many families have become separated during their flight from Lofa county and there are large numbers of unaccompanied women and children in IDP camps. Liberian civilians and Sierra Leonean refugees in camps in Cape Mount county are also at risk." (AI 11 December 2001)

"Testimonies and reports gathered by Amnesty International suggest that since late April 2001, government security forces, especially the Anti-Terrorist Unit (ATU), a special military unit frequently accused of human rights violations, have extrajudicially executed, arbitrarily detained or tortured -- including by the rape of women and girls -- more than 200 civilians suspected of supporting armed opposition groups. Civilians fleeing Lofa County have often been prevented from moving to safer areas by the security forces, on suspicion that dissidents were among them.

Armed opposition combatants, reportedly based in Guinea and belonging to the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), have also been responsible for abuses in recent months. They have reportedly carried out summary executions, torture and rape of civilians suspected of collaborating with the Liberian security forces.

[...]

"The testimonies and cases gathered by Amnesty International show that arrests of suspected dissidents have often been carried out on a purely arbitrary basis. Torture has been systematically used to make people confess their supposed backing for either the LURD or the security forces. Women and children have been the most vulnerable people among those displaced. The scale of sexual violence raises concerns about rape being used as a weapon of terror against the civilian population, and countless victims of rape are currently in urgent need of medical and psycho-social assistance." (AI 1 August 2001)

LURD is also responsible for human rights abuses against civilians (August 2001)

- Several reports at end 2001 that LURD combatants involved in killing, torture and rape of civilians
- Information about these abuses is limited, but persons are apparently targeted on suspicion of collaborating with government forces

"There have been several reports that in the past few months LURD combatants have summarily and deliberately killed, tortured and raped unarmed civilians. Detailed information on individual abuses is limited, but it appears that some civilians including women have been targeted on suspicion of collaborating with government forces.

On 15 April 2001 a young woman in Voinjama, aged about 21 years old, was reportedly raped by a LURD fighter. According to eyewitnesses, when the LURD fighter was caught raping her, he was said to have been summarily executed by a local LURD commander. On 16 April 2001 in Voinjama, two men wearing civilian clothes and suspected of being members of the Liberian security forces were reportedly killed by LURD fighters. The two men were in their early 30s.

In late June 2001, a 29-year-old man was captured by LURD fighters while trying to flee renewed fighting in Kolahun. His hands were tied behind his back and he was taken to a house on the outskirts of Kolahun where two other men and a young woman, all civilians, were being held by the LURD fighters. Two days later, before managing to escape, he reportedly witnessed the deliberate killing of the two men detained with him on the orders of a high-ranking officer, apparently for failing to give information about government forces' movements and numbers in the area. The young woman detained with them, around 23 years old, was reportedly tortured, including by being repeatedly raped and having a piece of wood forced into her vagina. Subsequently, she also managed to escape.

Amnesty International has been unable to collect further information on these particular cases of rape and killings. However, the organization has received other similar reports and is concerned that they may be indicative of a pattern of unlawful killings and rape being carried out by armed opposition forces in Liberia." (AI 1 August 2001)

Amnesty International documents widespread human rights abuses against civilians, including specific IDP targets (August 2001)

- Amnesty International documents extrajudicial execution of some 35 people in Gilima and Vahun, upper Lofa County, in May 2001
- The Anti-Terrorist Unit and other security forces are reported to have tortured civilians in raids on IDP camps
- Many IDPs are reported to have been arrested in camps
- Hundreds of women fleeing violence in northern Liberia have been raped and gang-raped

- Victims of rape, including young girls, have been held in unofficial detention centres by Liberian security forces
- Rape victims have in some cases identified high-ranking Liberian officials
- Scale of rape raises question as to whether Liberian security forces are using it as a weapon of war
- Aid organisations report that many victims of rape are pregnant

"Between 29 May and 11 June 2001, more than 35 people -- possibly all civilians -- were reportedly arrested in Gilima and Vahun, upper Lofa County, on suspicion of backing the rebels. They were blindfolded, tied and taken away by ATU and other government forces who told relatives that the detainees would be taken southwards to Gbaama, Gbapolu County. Villagers and relatives who subsequently travelled to Gbaama were denied information by the security forces on the detainees and their place of detention, but heard from unofficial sources that the detainees were being held in a village nearby on the road to Weasua -- possibly Zuah. On 16 June 2001, a Liberian security forces commander reportedly arrived in Gbaama, publicly threatened to kill the detainees, and was later the same day seen taking the road to Weasua with ATU officers. The officers reportedly returned a few hours later singing war slogans, firing in the air and using phrases suggesting they had killed the detainees: "We fucked with them"; "We did it"; "We will be back". There are widespread fears that some or all of the detainees may have been extrajudicially executed." (AI 1 August 2001)

"The ATU and other security forces are reported to have tortured civilians arrested in raids and night searches in camps for internally displaced persons. Since early May 2001, more than 100 people who fled Lofa County, including children, are reported to have been arrested in the camps or at security force checkpoints and arbitrarily detained without charge or trial. According to relatives and other unofficial sources in Liberia, some have been held at ATU bases in Bong County, including at Gbatala, an unofficial detention centre where detainees have been held incommunicado, regularly tortured and in some cases extrajudicially executed. Others are reported to have been held at the central police station in Gbarnga. Families have been prevented from seeing the detainees and eyewitnesses have reported deaths among the detainees there as a result of torture aimed at forcing them to confess to supporting the LURD.

Some displaced people arrested since the end of May 2001-- including a number who were blindfolded, flogged and taken in early June 2001 from a centre for displaced people at the Central Agricultural Research Institute, Bong County -- have been released within days. Several others are reported to be still in custody. Amnesty International is investigating reports that some of this group have died in custody possibly at Gbatala base as a result of severe beatings. The names of the victims who allegedly died in custody are known to Amnesty International, but they have not been identified here for fear of reprisals against their relatives." (AI 1 August 2001)

For testimonies of torture victims, see AI report "Liberia: Killings, torture and rape continue in Lofa County" dated August 2001 [\[External link\]](#).

"According to a local Christian charity running the camps [in and around Voinjama], at least 300 of the refugee women living there have been raped.

An official of the organisation, Concerned Christian Charity, said about 30 percent of these raped women were pregnant. Hundreds of others had suffered other brutalities, he said." (AFP 19 November 2001)

"During armed conflict, women and adolescent girls suffer disproportionately as they are exposed to violence, rape and prostitution with the high risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and STDs. The virtual collapse of most of the family structures and the limited capacity of families to provide adequate care has exacerbated the situation of children, both in IDP camps and in war-affected communities." (UN November 2001)

“Cases of torture continue. In recent months, dozens of women fleeing insecure areas of northern Liberia have reported being tortured by the security forces, including by being repeatedly raped or gang-raped, and being threatened with death. Also alarming is the systematic torture used by the security forces to punish criminal suspects.” (AI 16 October 2001)

"Women and girls have been raped -- often by gangs of soldiers -- after fleeing the fighting and being arrested at checkpoints. Other victims of rape have been arrested in war zones, including Vahun and Kolahun, on suspicion of backing the dissidents, being related to dissidents or being spies. Victims of rape have often been held in unofficial detention centres, such as abandoned private houses used by government soldiers as their bases. Members of the security forces are reported to have beaten, kicked and stabbed their victims with bayonets when they resisted rape. Victims have often been threatened with reprisals by the perpetrators if they lodge a complaint.

Victims have in some cases identified high-ranking officials in the Liberian security forces as involved in raping them. The scale of rape carried out by the Liberian security forces raises serious concerns that sexual violence against women has been used as a weapon of war to instil terror among the civilian population. There is no doubt that the impunity which the security forces have enjoyed for rape and other human rights violations has been a key factor in allowing rape and other forms of sexual violence to reach the current alarming proportions.

[...]

Cases of rape continued to be reported in June and July 2001. In early June 2001, a woman was seized in Vahun district by the ATU and gang-raped for more than ten days including by the local ATU commander. When she was released, she was threatened with death by the ATU if she lodges a complaint. On 12 June 2001, a woman from the town of Voinjama was arrested by the ATU in lower Lofa County. She was accused of being a spy and collaborating with the dissidents, although she said she had fled south to find members of her family who had previously fled Voinjama. She reported being repeatedly gang-raped before being released a few days later. In late June, she is reported to have said, 'I am not safe anymore and I can't go among people'. She was traumatized and feared she might have caught sexually transmitted diseases as a result of the rape." (AI 1 August 2001)

"Participants expressed concern that displaced women fleeing Lofa often become victims of rape and sexual abuse at the hands of the armed actors. This conduct was said to be closely linked to drug abuse among soldiers. Also, abduction of women for forced domestic labour often lead to rape. Reportedly, displaced men are also abducted by the armed actors, often when stopped at roadblocks. Participants reported that a number of IDPs suspected of being rebel collaborators were abducted from TV Tower and CARI camps, south of Lofa County." (NRC October 2001)

"Children are vulnerable to attacks by both rebel and government forces; women and girls are reportedly being raped; there is a serious lack of access to food supplies and clean water; there is a lack of access to adequate health provision; diarrhoea amongst IDPs is on the increase; child protection relating to status of young boys; separation of children from parents and families." (SCF 22 May 2001)

"In early March 2001, four other women, two of them Mandingos, and another 17-year-old girl, also suspected of supporting the dissidents, were reportedly arrested at checkpoints in upper Lofa County, held in Vahun for a few weeks and gang-raped by members of the ATU and the SOD. Two of the victims were wounded with a knife when they refused to have sex with the security officers who then raped them.

[...]

"Since the renewal of armed incursions from Guinea into Lofa County in July 2000, the human rights situation has progressively deteriorated. Women and girls fleeing the outbreak of hostilities since February 2001 have been arrested at checkpoints and gang-raped by Liberian government forces. In early April 2001, a pregnant woman was grabbed near Zorzor, Lofa County, by an officer of the Anti-Terrorist Unit (ATU), a special government security unit. She was repeatedly raped until being released a few days later. ATU officers beat her and stamped on her stomach, as a result of which she lost her baby." (AI 30 April 2001)

For testimonies of rape victims, see AI report "Liberia: Killings, torture and rape continue in Lofa County" dated August 2001 [External link].

IDP children are forcibly recruited by security forces and armed groups in Liberia (October 2001)

- Displaced children are often victim to forced recruitment
- As many as 10,000 children fought as combatants in the Liberian civil war

"On-going conflict in the sub-region has resulted in the continued recruitment of minors into various armed groups. It is estimated that the number of children involved as combatants during the civil war in Liberia was as high as 10,000. Reports indicate that the risk of recruitment and conscription of youth under eighteen years of age is still a reality, with unemployment rates of 85% and only 57% of children attending primary school. Many Liberian youth are engaging in conflict within bordering countries lured by promises of US dollars and ill-gotten goods." (UN November 2001)

"According to participants, forced recruitment has been a standard practice in Liberia's recent history, and one which is affecting in particular the displaced men fleeing Lofa County. Furthermore, displaced children are also victims of forced recruitment. One participant pointed out that less than 30% of Liberians possess birth certificates, which sometimes makes it difficult to determine who is a minor. Therefore, the workshop recommended the development of clear standards for recruitment into the armed forces and strict implementation of those rules." (NRC October 2001)

Freedom of Movement

Civilians denied freedom of movement by MODEL (August 2003)

- MODEL Commanders in Buchanan issued an order prohibiting anybody from leaving the areas under their control without permission
- 6,000 IDPs from Monrovia living in the Saint Peter Claver Catholic Mission compound in Buchanan are prevented from returning home by MODEL rebel group
- MODEL is said to have imposed a strict 6.00pm-7.00am curfew in Buchanan and is registering all civilians living there
- Civilians complain because MODEL fighters have demanded money to let them go and search for food which they have been require to share with the rebels
- Civilians are only allowed to move up to 2 km from their home to their fields and gardens

"Relief workers estimate that about 30,000 displaced civilians live in Buchanan, which is held by the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL), a rebel group which controls the south and east of the country.

Most of them retreated there from Monrovia in June and July when another rebel group, Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) attacked the capital.

But having fled one rebel group, these displaced people then found themselves in the hands of another, since MODEL overran Buchanan at the end of July.

The majority has been trying to return home since fighting in Monrovia subsided three weeks ago, but MODEL fighters have so far prevented them from leaving.

"6,000 civilians living in the Saint Peter Claver Catholic Mission compound are from Monrovia. They want to go back home, but cannot get out," Sister Barbara Brilliant, a senior coordinator of Roman Catholic relief efforts in Liberia, told IRIN.

She said the rebels have imposed a strict 6.00pm-7.00am curfew in Buchanan and are registering all civilians living there.

Many residents have complained that the MODEL fighters have demanded money to let them go and search for food, which they have then been required to share with the rebels.

Garrity told the Catholic missionaries in Buchanan that MODEL had refused to let him leave their territory. Relief workers said the 39-year-old Briton, who looked to be unwell, had pleaded for days with the rebels to let him go.

MODEL Commanders told relief workers in Buchanan on Tuesday that their leaders had issued an order prohibiting anybody from leaving the areas under their control without permission.

Civilians, they said, were only allowed to move up to 2 km from their homes to tend their fields and gardens." (IRIN, 31 August 2003)

IDPs, in particular men and boys, have been denied freedom of movement out of Lofa county area (2001)

- Men and boys have been denied freedom of movement out of Lofa county over last months
- IDPs, in particular boys and men, are afraid of forced conscription and other abuses during registration by Liberian army
- Many IDPs have been held back at St. Paul's Bridge near Gbarnga
- Aid agencies have not been permitted to be present during registration of IDPs by Liberian security forces

"Relief agencies reported that only women, children, and elderly men are being permitted to leave Lofa County. GOL forces are detaining young men for fear they may be dissidents or forcing them to join the ranks of the GOL military." (USAID 3 October 2001)

"People on the run are crossing the bridge [Saint Paul Bridge, close to Gbarnga] on foot, after having gone through rigorous army scrutiny on the Lofa side. Most of those who pass through are women and young children. It is rumored that young boys of above 12 years and able bodied men are afraid to go through the army checkpoints for fear of being conscripted into the army.

[...]

Most of the IDP's have been on the way for four to six weeks, trekking through the bush while heading for Belefanaï. St Paul's river is quite big and only few people attempt to cross on self-made rafts. When reaching Belefanaï, IDP's are scared to go into town for fear of being harassed, and raped. They wait in hiding until a group of IDP's has crossed the bridge and then go into town to be screened by the soldiers. Aid agencies are not allowed to be present." (ACT 25 May 2001)

"Thousands of IDPs waiting to cross into Bong were being held up by security forces at a bridge over a river between the two counties." (IRIN-WA 25 May 2001)

"Furthermore, hundreds of people are still blocked at the Saint Paul Bridge, close to Gbarnga. Although authorization to cross the bridge was given last week, only women, children and the elderly are effectively being allowed to cross, under the supervision of Liberian soldiers." (MSF 21 May 2001)

Vulnerable groups

Women and children IDPs are the main victims of the fighting (April 2003)

- Mostly women and children who had been sheltering in the town of Saclepea have been driven out of the area by the fighting

"Fighting in and around the northeastern Liberian town of Ganta has forced thousands of refugees from Ivory Coast's war and internally displaced Liberians to flee to unknown areas, a newspaper reported Wednesday. A transit center established by the Young Men's Christian Association in Ganta, some 240 kilometres (150 miles) northeast of the capital Monrovia, which hosted 3,000 Ivoirians and other west Africans nationals, is now empty, the independent Inquirer daily newspaper said.

Some 20,000 refugees and internally displaced Liberians, most of them women and children who had been sheltering in the town of Saclepea, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) east of Ganta, have also been driven out of the area by the fighting between rebels and President Charles Taylor's government. Tracking the fleeing civilians was difficult since the United Nations and international agencies had withdrawn their staff from the conflict areas after three aid workers, including a Norwegian national, were killed in the region." (AFP, 9 April 2003)

IDP children suffer great emotional and physical stress as result of abuses and generalised violence (August-November 2001)

- Child abuse, including sexual abuse, is worrying with IDP girls in camps at particular risk
- Inadequate legal frameworks leave children vulnerable to rape, sexual exploitation and forced recruitment

"The rights of Liberian children have been threatened, undermined, and in some cases, violated during the hostilities between Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. Many children are now homeless, while others, particularly young boys, have been forcibly separated from their families. Child abuse, including sexual abuse, is of particular concern, with girls facing risks during displacement and in camps." (UN November 2001)

"Displaced children suffer the emotional distress of being uprooted from their homes, as well as extreme material deprivation. These children have little or no access to educational opportunities or livelihood options that are not exploitative. Variable access to food sources means that children do not sustain a good level of nutrition, while variable access to health services including few if any reproductive and sexual health services makes it difficult for them to protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS. Minimal access to water and sanitation services exposes children to the risk of disease. In addition to this, inadequate legal frameworks to protect children leave them open to abuse in the form of rape, exploitation and recruitment into the armed forces." (SCF 2 August 2001)

SUBSISTENCE NEEDS (HEALTH NUTRITION AND SHELTER)

General

In Buchanan IDPs face severe humanitarian conditions (July-August 2003)

- Between 8,000 and 10,000 IDPs fleeing the fighting in Buchanan face severe food, water shortages and lack adequate shelter and sanitation
- Diarrhea is prevalent especially among women and children
- In Bong county 60,000 IDPs are in urgent need of assistance

“According to the USAID/OFDA Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) currently in Monrovia, approximately 8,000 to 10,000 IDPs in Buchanan are in need of immediate food assistance.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) reported on August 8 that civilians fleeing the fighting in Buchanan face severe food and water shortages and lack adequate shelter and sanitation. Diarrhea is reportedly prevalent, especially among women and children.” (USAID, 13 August 2003)

“Meanwhile, outside Monrovia, reports of new displacement from around Buchanan, the scene of fighting between government and Movement for a Democratic Liberia (MODEL) rebels, continue to come in.

Further, the NGO Doctors Without Borders report that the humanitarian situation in Liberia's Bong County is critical, with some 60,000 IDPs in particular need of assistance. Humanitarian agencies continue to be unable to access more than two-thirds of Liberian territory.” (UN OCHA, 13 August 2003)

“As Buchanan fell on Monday, hundreds of terrified Liberians swarmed to the Firestone Rubber Plantation, the largest of its kind in Africa, to join some 50,000 displaced people already living there either in camps or with relatives and friends.” (AFP, 28 July 2003)

As fighting goes on, IDPs forced to flee are in terrible humanitarian situation (August 2003)

- Over two months of intense fighting, the health of IDPs who have been huddled together in terrible conditions without adequate shelter, food, safe drinking water or medical care is worsening
- Fear of epidemics in over-crowded makeshift camps as hundreds of people are reported to be suffering with cholera
- The intense and indiscriminate violence prevent humanitarian organisations from reaching IDPs in much needed of assistance
- IDPs and refugees in Monrovia are living in overcrowded shelters with poor water supply and sanitation

“Today, an estimated 100,000-200,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in Monrovia seek refuge in overcrowded and badly equipped IDP centers.

Lacking essentials like food, clean water, clothing and footwear, desperate families struggle to survive in appalling conditions - with children highly vulnerable to diseases caused by poor sanitation.” (World Relief, 6 August 2003).

“Over two months of intense fighting between government forces and rebel groups has led to hundreds of civilian deaths as well as hundreds of thousands of people being forced from their homes.

JRS is seriously concerned for the health of the displaced people, who have been huddled together in terrible conditions without adequate shelter, food, safe drinking water or medical care for weeks on end.

There have been worrying reports of hundreds of people suffering with cholera, and there is a fear that this and other epidemics may become rampant because of a lack of drinking water and sanitation in the over-crowded makeshift camps.

The violence has been so intense and indiscriminate that humanitarian organisations have been, for the most part, unable to reach the displaced people to provide much-needed assistance.” (JRS, 6 August 2003).

“The United Nations top envoy for internally displaced persons (IDPs) today voiced grave concern about the deteriorating plight of the hundreds of thousands of civilians driven from their homes by weeks of deadly fighting in Liberia and called for swift action to ensure their protection and assistance.

Francis M. Deng, Secretary-General Kofi Annan's Representative on Internally Displaced Persons, warned that the number of IDPs in Liberia continues to swell and their situation is worsening by the day as most lack access to food, clean water, and medical care, and basic sanitation facilities.

"Looting, rape and harassment of the civilian population by militia is reportedly widespread," he said in a statement issued in Geneva. "From all accounts, the humanitarian crisis has become truly catastrophic." (UN News Service, 31 July 2003).

“People scavenge in torrential rain for leaves and roots to boil up and make soup with. Those lucky enough to catch a dog or cat can enjoy a morsel of meat.

In the diplomatic quarter of Mamba Point, where tens of thousands of displaced people have sought refuge close to the heavily fortified US embassy and the nearby United Nations compound, many are already starving.

The premises of the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) are crowded with people sleeping rough on the bare floor. Many others huddle on the staircase each night from dusk until dawn.” (UN OCHA, 31 July 2003)

“IDPs and refugees in Monrovia are living in overcrowded shelters with poor water supply and sanitation, which has led to the outbreak of diseases such as diarrhoea and cholera. The current rate of cholera is 350 cases per week compared to about 30 cases per week at the same period last year.” (UN OCHA 21 July 2003)

Liberia is sliding towards a humanitarian catastrophe, WFP says (June 2003)

- As foreign aid workers pulled out of Liberia and the WFP was unable to deliver food, IDPs situation had fled camps
- IDPs flee the camps and are leaving on the street with no support system

"Liberia is sliding towards a catastrophe with thousands of people fleeing from camps for displaced people to seek shelter in the capital, Monrovia, a UN aid agency warned on Tuesday.

"It's total anarchy, it's not a war like any other," Christiane Berthiaume, a spokeswoman for the UN's World Food Programme (WFP), told journalists.

Foreign aid workers have pulled out of Liberia and the WFP was unable to deliver much-needed aid, she said.

"WFP is very concerned by the humanitarian situation in Liberia and warns of a catastrophe if a peaceful solution is not found to the crisis," Berthiaume said.

Liberian rebel groups, which control most of the country, stepped up their offensive against President Charles Taylor's government last week, and reached the outskirts of Monrovia.

French troops evacuated 512 foreign nationals from the capital on Monday.

Food aid to displaced Liberians in seven camps around Monrovia had already been broken off five weeks ago because of systematic looting, WFP said.

Berthiaume was unable to say how many of the 115,000 people in those camps had fled, but their conditions were likely to be precarious.

"Displaced people are fleeing from the camps around the capital to try to find refuge in the centre of Monrovia which is not at all equipped to receive them," she said

WFP said its foreign aid workers had left Liberia, and the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) announced that its three expatriates had pulled out.

The situation was too dangerous for Liberians working for WFP to take over, according to Berthiaume.

UN aid agencies estimate that more than 60 percent of Liberia's population have fled their homes in the past ten years because of recurrent civil war.

"There are three million inhabitants in Liberia and 100 percent of them need humanitarian and food aid," said Damien Personnaz, a spokesman for the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). (AFP, 10 June 2003)

"Liberia's capital Monrovia has been transformed into a giant refugee camp with tens of thousands on the streets following bitter fighting between rebels and government troops.

In the midst of the madness and the uncertainty -- with both the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebels and forces loyal to President Charles Taylor continuing their battles -- a few people manage to go about their daily lives.

Street vendors sell water or fuel, but shops and business establishments are closed.

In the central business district, where many of the panic-stricken civilians have fled in the hope they would be secure, iron shutters are drawn everywhere, giving the city centre the look and feel of a ghost town.

The overwhelming majority of those forced to live on the streets have no support system here. The outskirts of Monrovia, where the LURD rebels started their attack and then penetrated inwards, are dotted with camps housing at least 115,000 people displaced by a four-year civil war.

Together with a recently emerged rebel group, Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL), the LURD now controls at least 12 of Liberia's 15 counties.

Sporadic fighting, but with heavy weapons, was heard in Monrovia's outlying areas such as Gardnersville on Monday.

However, on Tuesday there appeared to be a lull in the fighting.

Thousands of displaced people have taken shelter in a 35,000-seat sports complex following a government announcement on Friday that they could seek refuge there.

Conditions were appalling in the stadium with leaking roofs and only with 16 functional toilets.

Others throng the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees every day. But all the expatriate staff of the mission were evacuated on Monday in a rescue mission conducted by the French military.

A total of 512 foreigners and UN staff left Monrovia on a French military vessel.

One of the rare taxi drivers daring to drive around the city, where the dreaded Anti-Terrorist Unit loyal to Taylor have set up innumerable roadblocks, said: "The streets have never been so full in years." Those manning the roadblocks don't hesitate to ask for money. Civilians are frequently stripped of their cellphones.

At the John F. Kennedy Hospital where only a 100-bed maternity ward is functional, medical sources said they had tended to some 300 wounded civilians and military personnel in the last few days.

No official figures were given but the government on Monday appealed to "all doctors, nurses, medical students and volunteers to come and save lives."

A resident of Monrovia's plush Mamba Point quarter, where many embassies are located, said most people feared Taylor's dreaded forces more than the rebels.

"We have seen how they treat us, how they rob the displaced people and pillage deserted areas," he said.

To add to the misery of the embattled residents, prices have shot up. Rice, the staple food, is 50 percent more expensive; fuel is available only on the black market while public transport is now 300 percent more expensive. " (AFP, 10 June 2003)

Host communities' members registered as IDPs in established camps

- IDPs place a heavy burden on the coping mechanism of already impoverished host communities

"The further displacement and increase in the IDP caseload is also a source of tension in Liberian society. IDPs place a heavy burden on the coping mechanism of already impoverished host communities. This in turn leads to the registration of a considerable number of host communities' members as IDPs in the established camps. Similarly, the massive influx of IDPs around the capital Monrovia has put pressure on refugee camps thus over-stretching United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) facilities. The displacement of populations is also likely to have far reaching consequences on the survival economy of the already impoverished rural communities throughout the country. It is all the more necessary to address the need for a wide range of community-based relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance to help the poorest and most vulnerable communities to cope with additional pressure." (UN OCHA, 3 June 2003)

Desperate humanitarian situation as fighting continues and resources are overstretched (March 2003)

- Only a political solution could ease Liberia's worsening humanitarian situation, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Rudd Lubbers says
- More displacements raise concerns for aid agencies about the limited humanitarian resources
- IDP camps are overcrowded by new arrivals

"United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Rudd Lubbers has warned Liberian officials that the humanitarian situation in their country has gone "from bad to worse" and urged them to support an effort to build a new democratic Liberia.

Lubbers, in Monrovia on the third leg of a five-nation West Africa mission, said Liberia needed to make an immediate commitment to work toward a political solution that will enable hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced people to go home and rebuild their lives.

"The increasingly desperate humanitarian plight inside Liberia, as well as the intense desire of Liberian refugees throughout West Africa to go home, make a political settlement all the more urgent," said Lubbers before leaving the Liberian capital on Wednesday.

"I see the misery, it is simply overwhelming. And I see Liberian refugees outside the country who want to come back. Something must be done now."

The High Commissioner had been expected to meet with Liberian President Charles Taylor on Wednesday but he failed to show for the meeting. After meeting several government officials in Monrovia, Lubbers flew Wednesday afternoon to Freetown, Sierra Leone, for a two-day visit. On Thursday morning, he met with President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah in the eastern town of Kenema. The two men also discussed their mutual concern about the situation in Liberia.

Fighting in 11 of Liberia's 15 counties has already displaced or threatens to displace nearly half of the country's 2.7 million people. The intensification of the conflict in recent months has nearly paralysed humanitarian work and jeopardised the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. Liberia currently has nearly 17,000 Sierra Leone refugees, over 38,000 Ivorian refugees and nearly 44,000 Liberians who returned home following the recent conflict in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire. In addition, nearly 15,000 third-country nationals have fled to Liberia to escape the fighting in Côte d'Ivoire.

UNHCR and its humanitarian partners are unable to reach many of these groups because of the nearly total lack of security over much of Liberia. Roaming bands of militias, unruly soldiers and ill-disciplined rebel groups have created an extremely dangerous operational environment. In February, three non-governmental organisation workers were murdered in eastern Liberia and aid agencies are now only able to reach a few isolated pockets.

Lubbers said it was urgent that the opposing sides put a cease-fire in place as soon as possible so that aid can begin to flow again. Such a cease-fire is one of the steps supported by the International Contact Group on Liberia that includes the United Nations, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the United States and the European Union. As a result of growing international pressure, the Liberian government has agreed to discuss a truce with rebels on June 2 in Ghana.

In the meantime, Lubbers said, humanitarian agencies would try to help wherever possible. He added, however, that this has become almost impossible. "Until there is a good political solution in Liberia, the humanitarian community will not be able to do its job properly," he said. "Humanitarian access cannot wait - we need to help people now."

The High Commissioner saw a glimmer of hope in the tenacious spirit of Liberian refugees when he visited Buduburam camp in Ghana on Tuesday. The camp hosts some 29,000 refugees, mainly from Liberia, and has become a thriving community that bustles with commercial activity and self-help groups. "Buduburam is like little Liberia in peace," said Lubbers. "I hope the refugees here will soon be able to return to the bigger Liberia in peace." (UNHCR 15 May 2003)

"The ongoing hostilities between the Government of Liberia and dissident factions have put the Liberian people in the midst of a major humanitarian crisis. [...] Due to the security situation, the humanitarian community cannot access 11 of Liberia's 15 Counties and provide badly needed emergency relief assistance to the population. The IDP camps are overcrowded and their facilities are overstretched. Minimum standards of assistance are not met, and there are major gaps with regard to the provision of food, safe water and sanitation, health and education services as well as protection. To date, donors have provided just 10% of the 2003 Consolidated Appeal funding requirements of US\$ 42.6 million. The United Nations urges donors to enable humanitarian agencies in Liberia to provide the required assistance to the Liberian people and refugees by funding the Consolidated Appeal for Liberia." (UN OCHA, 30 April 2003)

"UN humanitarian agencies fear that humanitarian needs created by continuing fighting in Liberia could quickly overburden their scarce aid resources. Fighting between Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebels and Liberian government forces, which has spread from western to central Liberia this week, has resulted in a new wave of displacement of civilian populations from their homes. In

the past week, residents of Gbarnga, the provincial capital of Bong County and its surrounding areas have been fleeing southwards to Monrovia, and Totota, while others fled toward the town of Ganta, which is on the border with Guinea.

The road between Ganta and Gbarnga is now cut off as result of the fighting. The sharp increase in the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) raises concerns as to whether there will be enough food, water, and health materials with which to provide IDPs, and that health and food security among IDPs could deteriorate rapidly.

Aid agencies fear overcrowding in the camps could lead to heightened public health risk. While existing facilities were still adequate to absorb the new influx, the current population movement to camps in Montserrado and Bong Counties could overstretch existing water and sanitation facilities, which could lead to epidemic. With the rainy season fast approaching, there were already IDPs in camps at Bong and Montserrado without tarpaulin sheets.

The influxes of new arrivals in the camps place further strain on stocks of shelter material that were already grossly insufficient. Food security has become a critical issue as food aid stocks are being depleted quickly. Unless resources are found to cover the needs pending the arrival of shipments scheduled to arrive in May, a break in the pipeline is anticipated for pulses in April and for cereals in May.” (UN OCHA, 25 March 2003)

Poverty deepens as fighting spreads (2002)

- Continuous displacement has caused another large-scale humanitarian crisis - almost 5 years after the end of Liberia's civil war in the 1990s
- Approximately one third of the country is inaccessible to humanitarian organisations
- More than 80 percent of the population live below the poverty line

"Four and a half years after the end of a 10-year devastating civil war, Liberia is again faced with a large humanitarian crisis due to persistent fighting and continuous dislocation of population. The insecurity situation has rendered about one-third of the country (Lofa, Gbarpolu and Bong) non-functional and largely inaccessible to the international humanitarian community. The insecurity and poor governance have delayed reconstruction and social reintegration programmes deepened poverty and made the resilient communities more vulnerable to diseases and HIV/AIDS. Over 80 per cent of the population live below the poverty line and more than half in abject poverty. The unemployment is at a high of 85%. With adult literacy of only 39% (25% for females), infant mortality rate of 117 per 1,000 live births, under-five mortality of 194 per 1,000 and maternal mortality rate of 578 per 100,000, Liberia remains one of the poorest countries in the world." (UNICEF, 29 May 2002)

Basic humanitarian needs of civilians caught in the conflict are not being met, according to MSF (May 2002)

- MSF describes humanitarian response to the growing Liberian crisis as 'weak and inadequate'
- 'Corrupt system' prevents relief reaching the most vulnerable, charges MSF
- Civilians are constantly on the move, according to MSF, because the relevant government body has put them in sites too close to military bases or front lines

"The conflict in Liberia is escalating daily. Fresh attacks around Gbarnga have emptied out six camps in Bong County. Camp and town residents alike, approximately 40,000 people in total, have fled the area. In

addition, an unknown number of people are hiding in the bush, trapped by the fighting and completely cut off from assistance and protection. According to testimonies gathered by MSF, people's movements are being controlled and they are suffering from atrocities perpetrated by all parties to the conflict.

Still, there is no strong international commitment to meet the growing humanitarian needs in Liberia. This is clearly reflected in a lack of initiatives to increase funding for UN agencies and non-governmental organizations. As a result, the humanitarian response is weak and inadequate, and the basic needs of the civilians caught in this conflict are not being met.

Although given the responsibility by the Secretary General in 1997 to act as the lead agency for IDPs, OCHA is not assuming its role. Since OCHA is not operational in Liberia, by default the LRRRC is left alone to care for the IDPs. However, LRRRC is a government agency and therefore driven by political objectives rather than humanitarian needs.

For example, camp population figures declared by LRRRC are accepted as official UN figures and dictate the allocation of material assistance. Recently, the LRRRC/UN said that there are 63,000 people living in four displaced camps near Monrovia, but the MSF teams working in these camps estimate a total population of less than 20,000. Even with inflated numbers, this corrupt system prevents relief from reaching those who are most vulnerable.

In addition, civilians are constantly on the move because the LRRRC has installed them in sites too close to military bases or the front lines. Most disturbingly, the displaced cannot raise issues of concern to an independent humanitarian presence in the camps with the mandate to protect them.

As in Sierra Leone, the UN mission in Liberia is under pressure due to its dual mandate: on the one hand to monitor the sanctions and on the other hand to carry out its humanitarian role. Once again, these objectives are often contradictory.

MSF is extremely concerned with the lack of freedom of movement and right to seek safe refuge for Liberian civilians. Guinea continues to keep its border closed without condemnation from the international community and the obstacles to reach Sierra Leone are still there." (MSF, 21 May 2002)

Health

IDPs in their new informal sites risk infectious diseases (August 2003)

- The ongoing conflict prevents IDPs in need of treatment for high infectious diseases from reaching treatment sites
- Significant portion of children have visible signs of chronic malnutrition and anaemia
- Many under-fives require supplementary feeding, vaccination and de-worming
- A sharp increase of cholera endemic in Monrovia is linked to the massive displacements and very poor sanitation conditions in places where people sought shelter

"Risks of infectious disease are particularly high at the new informal IDP sites, which suffer from overcrowding, lack of clean water and poor sanitation. At the same time, the ongoing conflict prevents those in need of treatment for highly infectious diseases from reaching treatment sites.

Rapid assessments made by the humanitarian agencies in Monrovia in June and July 2003 indicate that a significant proportion of children have visible signs of chronic malnutrition and anaemia.

Many under-fives require supplementary feeding, vaccination and de-worming. Assessments also indicate that most of the displaced have lost their basic personal belongings including blankets, buckets and cooking utensils, through repeated displacement.” (UN OCHA, 7 August 2003).

“Sharp rise in an endemic situation

Cholera is endemic in Monrovia but a sharp increase has been noted since the beginning of the crisis due to the massive displacements and the very poor sanitation conditions in the places where people sought shelter.

In July, three cholera treatment centers set up by MSF in the capital were already treating over 300 cases per week. By mid July, the Liberian Ministry of Health had declared the epidemic official and asked MSF to take charge of coordinating cholera surveillance and treatment in the city.

Monitoring the spread of cholera is as crucial as quickly identifying and treating people suspected of having the disease. By setting up a system of cholera treatment units (CTUs), with a capacity of 400 beds in the city, MSF staff working in six clinics and two hospitals in Monrovia and three camps for displaced persons in nearby Montserrado County hoped to stem the spread of the disease by immediately referring patients complaining of cholera symptoms to a CTU for observation, isolation and treatment.

Severe dehydration brought on by the acute diarrhea and vomiting associated with cholera, particularly in children and adults already suffering from poor nutrition and a lack of adequate water, often proves deadly for those who contract the disease.

It is critical that anyone suspected of having cholera be rehydrated quickly with oral rehydration salts (ORS), or with Ringer's lactate, administered either orally or intravenously for patients who cannot drink.

"Treating cholera is simple," explained Formelius, "but controlling the spread of the disease is not, especially in the extremely poor sanitary conditions existing in Monrovia today."

Treatment facilities required

Setting up a CTU requires building a facility apart from the general population and especially away from health structures where patients already weakened by other illnesses are especially susceptible to the disease.

In response to the first sign of a cholera outbreak in June, MSF established CTUs with a total capacity to treat over 250 patients at the John F Kennedy Hospital, the Samuel K Doe Stadium - where over 20,000 displaced Liberians were living - and one on Randal Street in the heart of the city.” (MSF, 31 July 2003)

“Cholera continues to be prevalent in Monrovia due to over crowding and the poor sanitation conditions at the IDPs settlements.

The situation has been made worse by the intense fighting in the city that has made access to potable water difficult. Without clean water even ORS therapy becomes difficult. Worse still, due to lack of adequate food, Most IDPs are reported to be malnourished due to lack of adequate food thus reducing their resistance to any infection.” (UN OCHA, 31 July 2003).

MSF greatly reduces its medical care for Internally Displaced Persons (July 2003)

- Malnutrition and other illnesses on the rise due to the lack of food, water and medical care for IDPs in camps in Monserrado county

- But because of security reasons MSF is forced to close its health clinics in the Seighby, Plumcor, and Ricks camps of 21,000 IDPs in Monserrado
- MSF's work on a therapeutic feeding center in Seighbe camp also halted
- A program offering support to victims of sexual violence also halted

“Malnutrition and other illnesses were on the rise in the past weeks due to the lack of food, water and medical care for tens of thousands of internally displaced persons living in camps in Montserrado county around Monrovia.

Unfortunately, as of Friday, July 18, insecurity forced MSF to close its health clinics in the Seighbe, Plumcor, and Rick's camps in Montserrado that were serving approximately 21,000 internally displaced Liberians.

Located directly on the frontlines of the fighting, the camps offered little security and many of the displaced have fled to already overcrowded shelters in Monrovia. MSF's work on a therapeutic feeding center with a capacity to treat up to 500 patients for severe malnutrition in Seighbe camp also had to be halted due to insecurity, as did a program offering support to victims of sexual violence.

MSF staff continues to provide medical care, cholera treatment, and water in the Samuel K Doe Stadium where the numbers of internally displaced persons seeking safety has swelled to an estimated 25,000.

[...]

In Bong county, MSF Liberian staff continue to run out-patient clinics serving approximately 50,000-60,000 displaced persons in the Salala, Maimu, and Totota camps, and provide water and sanitation support in the camps.” (MSF, 30 July 2003)

As fighting resumes health services are disrupted (February-May 2003)

- IRC is concerned the fighting which could prevent them from reaching IDPs and refugees with supplies
- Recent fighting and ensuing insecurity in Grand Gadey and Nimba Counties disrupted a planned campaign against Measles, Yellow Fever and Meningitis

“In spite of the unrest, three IRC-supported clinics in Nimba County along the Ivory Coast border remain open. IRC pre-positioned drugs and supplies with the clinics just prior to the latest outbreak of fighting, and clinic staff continue to provide health services, health education and measles immunizations to 250 to 300 locals, refugees and displaced persons per day. However, Woldemariam cautions that the supplies will only last a few more weeks. "With the ongoing fighting, the clinics' continued service is crucial," Woldemariam said. "Our big concern at the moment is what happens if we cannot reach them with additional supplies. The need is enormous."” (IRC, 7 May 2003)

“Health activities including a planned campaign against Measles in Nimba, the vaccination of the population of Grand Gedeh, surveillance on Yellow Fever and suspected cases of Meningitis, at both locations were disrupted due to the recent fighting and ensuing insecurity in the two counties.

In central Liberia, the only referral hospital at Phebe was relocated to Salala, 15km south of Totota, where it opened a surgical unit to deal with minor operations. MSF-F established an emergency unit in Totota to help deal with the emergency medical cases from the 70,000 IDP population in the area. Lack of an ambulance creates a setback for the referral service. If fighting escalates southwards insecurity could frustrate efforts by the humanitarian community to maintain health facilities in Totota.

Since the eruption of fighting that moved northeast from Gbarnga to Ganta, there are no reports of the condition of the Ganta Hospital and staff in Nimba. Likewise there is no information received about Zwedru Hospital. Both facilities served as referral centers for IDPs, returnees, refugees and Third country Nationals. Zwedru Hospital was supported by MERLIN and the County Health Team through WHO. Ganta was supported by the Methodist Church in Liberia.” (UN OCHA, 5 April 2003)

IRC assessment reveals critical health situation of IDPs in camps (September 2002)

- An IRC health assessment in 11 IDP camps and schools reveals a deteriorating health situation facing IDPs, with mortality rates above the emergency threshold
- According to IRC, the situation facing IDPs is much worse than that facing refugees
- Water and sanitation facilities in camps are identified as a major problem
- Malaria and diarrhoea are the main causes of mortality

"The health situation facing internally displaced Liberians has deteriorated recently and mortality rates have risen above the emergency threshold, a new assessment reported on Tuesday.

'Crude mortality rates are two times over the emergency threshold. Under five mortality rates are three times over the threshold,' the International Rescue Committee (IRC) reported.

'The situation deteriorated during the last months and requires urgent, continuous support from the international community. Compared with Liberian refugees, their situation [that of internally displaced persons, or IDPs] is much worse,' IRC added.

The agency's warning was based on a health assessment it conducted in July and August in IDP camps in Bong and Montserrado Counties, in north-central and western Liberia respectively. There are 14 camps housing at least 100,000 IDPs in Liberia.

Eleven camps and schools were included in the IDP assessment. Five of the camps: Serghbeh, Blamese, Ricks, Wilson and Jartondo, are located in Montserrado County, which has an estimated IDP population of 77,000.

The remaining six camps are in Bong County, where there is an estimated IDP population of 39,000 people.

'132 deaths were reported between July 2001 and 13 August 2002 in Bong and Montserrado camps. Sixty six of the deaths were in children under five,' the IRC reported.

'Nearly 60 percent occurred during the months of July and August,' it said, adding that this was 'consistent with recent reports of IDP management teams during that period.'

According to the assessment, the number of latrines varies from 30 in Serghbeh camp to 200 in Blamese, but none of the camps meets the minimum Sphere standards for humanitarian relief of one pit latrine per 20 people.

The IRC said there was a need to increase the number of latrines to at least one per 50 people in the short term, and to construct emergency trench latrines.

Water availability in the camps was a problem, too, the agency said, recommending: an increase in supply availability to 15 litres per person per day; that drinking water should be chlorinated; and that [water and sanitation] teams should be placed in camps to ensure access to safe water.

The IRC said there should be an aggressive hygiene promotion campaign focusing on four messages: use of safe water sources, latrine usage, safe water handling, and the need for hand washing.

'It is recommended that an additional health post be built, equipped and staffed in the Maimu 1 camp. Serghbeh health facilities should be provided with additional qualified staff and logistical support. Shelter needs of IDPs in Ganta need to be solved,' the agency stated.

Since May 2002, thousands of Liberians have been displaced as a result of clashes between government forces and dissidents.

'The last wave of displacement has created additional needs in terms of shelter, health, sanitation and food aid,' according to the IRC.

Morbidity data from three health units in Ganta showed that malaria is the first cause of consultation, followed by diarrhoea, it said.

Given the current situation and the worrying nature of scenarios that may arise, funding will need to be increased to meet IDP demands, the IRC added.

However, the usual sources of funding are being reduced and response to the United Nations-led Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for 2002 had only received 22 percent of the funds requested by May." (IRIN, 2 October 2002)

For the full IRC health assessment report, [click here](#)

Poor health facilities in IDP camps in and around Monrovia (2002)

- In five camps visited near Monrovia in August 2002, poor water and sanitation facilities led to outbreaks of diarrhoea
- A diarrhoea/ cholera epidemic is anticipated in and around Monrovia

"Heavy rains and the recent flooding in Montserrado County has increased the risk of contracting diarrhea for most of the population who are using shallow wells as sources of drinking water. In response to recent reports of diarrhea cases in IDP camps, a fact finding team comprising WHO and the Ministry of Health (MOH), was fielded in Montserrado camps to identify the underlying causes of the alleged diarrhea cases in the camps and to assess the adequacy of existing response capacity and immediate additional needs.

The team observed the problem in the five camps visited, range from unsanitary disposal of waste/garbage; insufficient sanitary facilities/tools/water supply and inadequate hygiene promotion to poor health services/structure, lack of reproductive health facilities, ORT corners and Immunization services including lack of a 24 hour health service and base radio or ambulance for referral, starvation, increased death cases and insufficient shelter. The team recommended improving sanitary conditions and the addition of health facilities and improving camp management.

As part of additional response to the diarrhea incident in IDP camps, and parts of Monrovia, the Ministry of Health and NGOs in the health sector have decided to carry out a thorough assessment of the diarrhea situation in order to recommend appropriate measures to address the situation. Meanwhile, all health sector NGOs providing services at IDP Camps have been requested to pre-position drugs and medical supplies as part of an emergency preparedness action for an anticipated diarrhea/cholera epidemic in and around Monrovia." (UN OCHA, 30 August 2002)

Food and Nutrition

IDPs are the most vulnerable in terms of food security, Action Against Hunger says (August 2003)

- A combination of accessibility and availability issues has led to food insecurity

“IV - Household Food Situation (micro level) :

A combination of accessibility and availability issues has led to food insecurity for the whole population of Monrovia. Rapid assessments carried out in the city allow to distinguish between several degrees of vulnerability, which can be described as follows:

↓ Very vulnerable : IDP

↓ Vulnerable : Resident in Zone 1

↓ Less Vulnerable : Resident in Zone 2

↓ Better off : Resident in Zone 3

This typology is roughly based on the following factors: diet, access to food, activities (coping mechanisms), access to water, access to medical care and shelter conditions.

ÿ IDP Households:

Consecutive displacement patterns has resulted in overcrowding of the squatted structures which are mainly public building (schools, ministries, stadium ...). The capacity of these structures, poor to begin with, is now vastly overstretched, with particularly bad shelter and sanitation conditions. In visited centres, structures are in poor condition and seem to have never been maintained; sanitation facilities are far below needs. Water availability remains insufficient: most buildings rely only on water trucking, itself very dependent on security patterns constraining car movements.

From direct observation, all displaced people have moved with some belongings (cooking utensils, clothes, mattress or mat). Solidarity is said to somewhat alleviate each other's suffering. Each interviewed person was able to cook (charcoal + utensils). Most of the time meals are prepared per family but sometimes per group of 2- 3 families.

In visited centres, the household food situation is quite homogeneous with regard to diet and coping mechanisms, although the situation could be slightly better for those most recently displaced who were able to bring part or all of their savings. Food distributions before the last round of fighting (i.e. those that took place between Jul. 7th to 17th) have also eased the situation in the centres. Indeed, food aid (maize meal) is now the main source of food for the population. Maize meal is also the cheapest available food source, even if current prices stand higher than for rice before June.

Note however that, as the main part of the IDP population was already dependant on food aid, their current situation is obviously deteriorating : lack of regular food aid distributions has resulted in low coverage of food needs. Food distributions carried out in June and in July did assist the population, but each round has been interrupted due to security situation: some of the centres have never received food aid, while some have received assistance only once.

- From 9th up to 20th of June a first round of distribution from IP/WFP and ICRC reached around 45,000 persons with a 2 weeks ration;

- Distributions resumed from 4th to 17th of July to reach an additional 100,000 persons, including around 5,000 persons who had benefited from the 1st round as well. Only 2 centres received food aid twice, (World Wide centre in central Monrovia, and Goodridge centre at Somalia drive);

- Last distribution were then interrupted on the 18th when fighting starting; At the time of the survey, all interviewed people declared that didn't last anymore except in SKD stadium where in average 2 to 3 days of food was still in family stock on the 26th of July: distribution at SKD was effectively just completed before the events on the 17th of July.

Overall, about 140,000 persons have received food rations in the last two months, i.e. about 75% of the total estimated IDP population, at 180 000. This beneficiary population received however two week rations only in the last 8 weeks. Globally, food distribution has covered less than 20% of the food needs.

In addition, rations served were composed as follows:

Food Item	Qty served for 2 weeks	Equivalent Qty per day	Daily needs coverage for adult
Bulgur or Maize Meal	6 kg	400 gr.	100%
Pulses	0.75 kg	50 gr.	50%
Veg. Oil	0.375 kg	25 gr.	50%
Salt	0.075 kg	5 gr.	100%

Table 3: Food ration composition. Distributions June and July 2003.

Source: WFP/ACF.

The ration in fact covers only half of the daily requirement for lipid (oil) and protein (pulses). Food now comes systematically as the very first priority for all interviewed people : they are spending most of their time to get food to be able to cook at least one meal per day for the family. Meals are typically made of maize meal enriched with a bit of palm oil, or occra sauce.

Fufu (from dried cassava) is also regularly prepared. Nutritionally, the current diet is clearly lacking protein and lipid. Moreover the total energy intake doesn't reach more than half of the required needs.

The average cost for cooking this meal is around 70 Lib. for a family of 6 persons : it is the maximum that the large majority of the interviewed people can afford.

IDP don't have many opportunities in terms of coping mechanisms: in an urban context where all shops are closed, movement difficult security wise or unaffordable, economic activities that occur can only be small contracts against cash or in kind payment. Such contracts remain rare and for menial tasks such as laundry washing. Such contracts are mostly between IDP population and residents. Therefore, this coping mechanism is mostly found in zones 2 and 3.

Petty trade remains the main coping mechanism used by the population :

- Food aid and NFI distributed
- Wild food and Cooked food
- Non food items: Cosmetic, cigarettes etc...

Wild food collection is used as much as the population can: atypical staples such as green leaves and shells from the swamps in Sinkor area (zone 2) are gathered for consumption. Opportunities for wild food collection remain small in urban context and the practice is decreasing in the East and West sides.” (Action Against Hunger, 5 August 2003)

40 percent of IDP children in camps suffer from acute malnutrition (August 2003)

- A nutritional survey of 2,112 children under age of five in 11 IDP camps, demonstrates that 39,8 % children are found to be suffering from malnutrition, 15 % are regarded as an emergency, World Vision says

“A new survey of young children living in camps for displaced people in the Liberian capital Monrovia indicates that nearly 40 percent of them suffer from malnutrition.

World Vision said on Monday it had conducted a nutritional survey of 2,112 children under the age of five in 11 camps for displaced people from late June to the end of July. This found that 39.8 percent of them suffered from acute malnutrition.

Action Against Hunger said two weeks ago that a screening of more than 6,000 children under the age of five over roughly the same period showed about 30 percent were suffering from acute malnutrition. Any reading over 15 percent is regarded as an emergency.

World Vision said that using the weight for height method, it surveyed children between six months and about 5 years old in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and other non-governmental organization (NGO) partners.

“We are planning to conduct more assessments,” one UN official told IRIN by telephone from Monrovia, noting that several therapeutic and supplementary feeding centres were already operating in the city.” (IRIN, 26 August 2003)

Malnutrition rages in IDPs camps in Monrovia, Action Against Hunger says (August 2003)

- 50% of children observed in IDP camps are suffering acute malnutrition

“Action Against Hunger has been able to carry out an evaluation of the needs in displaced people’s camps in Monrovia and the result is critical: close to 50% of the children observed are suffering from acute malnutrition. This reflects the disastrous nutritional situation in the city where the price of rice has increased seven fold in just a few weeks.” (Action Against Hunger, 1 August 2003).

In Bong County, IDPs are starving (August 2003)

- 20% of the children screened in Salala IDP camp moderately malnourished while 2% are malnourished
- In three camps in Bong county, MSF reported a degradation in the nutritional situation

“According to international media reports, MSF-France screened 1,670 children at Salala IDP camp in Bong County, north of Monrovia, and found that 20 percent of the children screened were moderately malnourished, while slightly more than two percent were severely malnourished.

Approximately 20,000 to 25,000 people displaced by fighting in northern Liberia have sought refuge in the Salala IDP camp since May.

In Bong County, MSF continues to offer medical care to more than 60,000 IDPs in three camps. MSF reported on August 8 that during the week of August 4, it measured a degradation in the nutritional situation." (USAID, 13 August 2003)

Attacks on camps disrupt food distribution (April 2003)

- Insecurity undermines the work of WFP in Monserrado camps and in the southeast

"Following the attack on Ricks Institute IDP camp, WFP distribution of food to the Montserrado camps was disrupted. The verification of beneficiaries in the camps that was aimed at establishing reliable caseload figures was also disrupted. In light of government's instruction to have the IDPs in the seven Montserrado camps relocated, further implementation of the exercise that began two weeks ago remains a challenge. A planned food distribution for an estimated 2,000 people that should have occurred on 25 March in Ganta was also disrupted due to fighting in Ganta.

Prior to the fighting in Zwedru, WFP had pre-positioned food commodities for the returnees, refugees and Third country Nationals. The move was to enable WFP respond quickly to possible large-scale influxes of people from the neighboring Ivory Coast. Due to insecurity in the southeast, the disappearance of some WFP staff and the possible relocation of beneficiaries, it was not possible to secure food commodities. WFP was also addressing the concerns highlighted in MSF-F nutritional report on Zwedru prior to the fighting in Grand Gedeh" (UN OCHA 5 April 2003)

IDPs living in highly precarious conditions are dependent on food aid for survival (February 2002)

- 30,000 IDPs in Bong County are receiving WFP food aid
- WFP is extremely concerned about the fate of many thousands of others in the north and north west who are out of the reach of aid agencies

"WFP's food represents a vital lifeline for the IDPs who are living in partially destroyed buildings, warehouses or, simply, the open air.

Many have had to walk several days through forest after abandoning their villages and are showing clear signs of physical weakness.

When fighting broke out between pro- and anti-government forces in Lofa County, northern Liberia, in May 2001, some 40,000 people were displaced.

Of these, 30,000 are still in Bong County where they are receiving WFP food aid, but aid workers remain extremely concerned about the fate of thousands who remain out of reach in the north and north west and are surviving in highly insecure conditions.

The conflict in Liberia is part of an on-going, constantly shifting conflict in a diamond-rich area, where the borders of Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone frequently intersect." (WFP, 5 February 2002)

Shelter

Thousands of civilians are forced to find any makeshift shelter as fighting goes on (July 2003)

- The makeshift shelters found by IDPs across Monrovia leave them without access to adequate food supplies
- IDPs are crowded into churches, schools without running water

“With fighting escalating in Monrovia, hundreds of thousands of people have sought refuge in makeshift shelters across the city, leaving them without any access to adequate food supplies and in urgent need of assistance.

Thousands of people are crowded into churches, schools and other temporary shelters without running water or food and need urgent assistance, but as long as the fighting continues it is impossible to get supplies to them.

The latest battles have forced many to flee eastwards towards the airport. While it is extremely difficult to get an accurate idea of the number of people who have now been displaced, some estimates put the figure at over 300,000.” (WFP, 25 July 2003)

“More than 200,000 innocent people have been forced to flee their homes and have sought refuge in schools and church buildings, the US Embassy residential compound and apartment buildings, homes of family members, relatives and sympathizers, and the sports stadium in Monrovia.

Hundreds of thousands more internally displaced Liberians are living in squalid conditions in camps outside Monrovia - Brewerville in Montserrado County, Buchanan in Grand Bassa County, Kakata in Margibi County and Salala in Bong County.” (Mercy Corps, 25 July 2003)

Fighting disrupted aid agencies plans to relocate refugees, returnees and IDPs (April 2003)

- Security concerns in Harper, Saclepea, Toe Town undermines the verification of returnees, refugees and TCNs

“The fighting in Zwedru disrupted UNHCR planned relocation of 5,268 refugees and Third country Nationals to Harper and Saclepea. Also disrupted was a planned verification of the population of 3,000 returnees, refugee and Third country Nationals that used to live in the Transit Center at Toe's Town before the town was attacked on 28 February. Prior to these attacks, UNHCR, IOM and OCHA were appealing for resources amounting to USD1, 474,150 to relocate about 10,000 TCNs who were caught up in fighting in the southeast. Due to security concerns in the region, the majority of the TCNs, mainly Burkinabes, preferred to return to their countries of origin.

The influxes of IDPs into all the camps have heightened the need for shelter to accommodate them. As aid agencies were making preparations to construct more transit centers and the laying out of new sites, new influxes into the camps at Bong, Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Montserrado are making it increasingly difficult to plan for sector expansion in safe areas. Furthermore, the government request to relocate all IDP camps in Virginia and Po River to a new site south east of Monrovia calls for urgent new resources. This is against the backdrop of poor funding of the CAP 2003, which as realized as only 1.5% response of the total requirement of US\$ 42 million. Although clear difficulties are envisaged, in undertaking an exercise of such magnitude, the matter is being actively discussed along with additional shelter and other requirements for IDPs in Totota area.” (UN OCHA, 5 April 2003)

Thousands of IDPs from Gbarnga area are living in makeshift camps along the road to Monrovia (June 2002)

- Residents of three IDP camps near Gbarnga flee southwards when attacked by LURD rebels, and are afraid to return even when government forces have regained control of the area
- About 10,000 IDPs are living in public buildings in Totota, as well as in the homes of local people
- Displaced people face serious difficulties in trying to build their own shelters

"Tens of thousands of people displaced by the recent fighting in and around Gbarnga, are living in misery in villages and makeshift camps on the main road leading to the capital, Monrovia.

The vast majority of them were previously living in three camps for displaced people on the outskirts of Gbarnga when the town was attacked and briefly captured by Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy, Lurd, rebels and they had to move again.

Although government troops are now back in control of Gbarnga, the displaced people have been reluctant to return due to security concerns.

Others find it difficult to go back because during the four days of fighting in Gbarnga, much property was looted by the rebel fighters, government troops and civilians.

Shelter

Around 10,000 internal refugees, who are virtually stranded in the palm-growing highway town of Totota, some 50 kilometres from Gbarnga, have not been sheltered since their arrival in May.

The displaced people - mainly women and children - are temporarily housed in church and school buildings and in the homes of local people, and have to trek every morning to a spot designated for them to build a camp.

So serious is the struggle to build their own shelters that the bush around Totota has nearly been depleted of sticks, palm thatches and ropes that are needed for the construction.

The setting in of the rainy season has greatly undermined efforts to complete work on the huts which are plastered with mud.

Tens of thousands of other people displaced from Gbarnga are staying in the commercial town of Ganta, in nearby Nimba county, on the border with Guinea." (BBC News, 17 June 2002)

Descriptions of various shelters for IDPs in different camps and regions (July-October 2001)

- TV Tower camp contains over 500 mud-walled huts in addition to permanent cement structures
- In Bong county, IDPs were living in open air and in destroyed buildings in August 2001
- MSF in charge of shelter at Jenna Manna camp; parts of forest had to be cut down to allow room for shelters

In TV Tower camp:

"Along with permanent cement structures, the camp contains over 500 mud-walled huts for IDPs. 'The ICRC provides them with the materials and training to build their own mud homes with tarpaulin roofs,' explains camp manager Tito Gartor, a national Red Cross staff member employed by the ICRC. 'Red Cross

volunteers then supervise the construction to make sure they fit the agreed design.' Tito runs the camp in collaboration with leaders chosen by the IDPs themselves." (IFRC 29 October 2001)

In Bong county:

"Armed incursions of pro- and anti-government forces into the northern county of Lofa have forced tens of thousands of people to take refuge in neighbouring Bong.

The IDPs are living in partially destroyed buildings, warehouses or the open air." (WFP 1 August 2001)

In Jenna Manna camp:

"Testimony from Aneley, an MSF physician at Jenne Manna, July 9:

The people arriving were tired and sick. Many of them had diarrhea and fever, and their feet were swollen from all the walking.

Some big tents have been put up to house people, and we've found a good site for the shelters to be put up. Because the forest is very dense all around us, it took many days of work to chop down trees so that people could move in. There are now 524 huts. The families have been given plastic sheeting, to keep their homes watertight. It's the rainy season, and the rain pours down onto our site every day." (MSF 19 July 2001)

"Old caseload" IDPs in Monrovia either lived in squalid make-shift shelters of with family and friends (1998-2000)

- Over half of internally displaced living in abandoned buildings
- Displaced persons living with family and friends often remain uncounted
- Between 4,000 and 5,000 displaced persons squat in Monrovia in unfinished highrises, homes, schools and other abandoned buildings
- Of displaced, there are 226,000 displaced persons residing in approved shelters, another 45,000 are living as squatters

"At the start of 1999, an estimated 75,000 Liberians resided at designated displacement sites in Monrovia. By the year's end, about 10,000 remained. Thousands of other displaced Liberian families living with friends or on their own remained uncounted in Monrovia." (USCR 2000, p. 101)

"The size of the internally displaced population in Liberia has long been uncertain because large numbers of Liberians live outside formal shelters." (USCR 1999, p. 74)

"Most internally displaced people have been living in squalid and destitute conditions for a number of years, some displaced several times during the course of the war.

[...]

In July 1997, the Liberia Refugee, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) estimated that over half of all the internally displaced people were living in abandoned buildings, such as the shell of the Ministry of Health building, under construction when the war broke out, where some 3000 have lived for years in makeshift overcrowded rooms. There were six toilets and one water pump for these residents. At Samukai camp, some 9000 internally displaced Liberians and Sierra Leonean refugees lived side by side.

There were only seven toilets and a few water pumps in working order. Because these camps grew gradually, without humanitarian assistance, they were not well laid out in terms of services." (Nowrojee 1998, pp. 42, 44)

Displaced persons in Monrovia, including an estimated 40,000 or more people in unapproved shelters, often inhabited filthy, overcrowded, government-owned buildings, which government officials sought to empty so that their offices could reopen." (USCR 1998, p. 77)

"Between 4,000 and 5,000 displaced persons squat in Monrovia in unfinished highrises, homes, schools and other abandoned buildings such as the once elegant but now mildewed Ducor Intercontinental Hotel and the unfinished housing bank." (IRIN-WA 20 July 2000, para. 3)

Of displaced, there are 226,000 displaced persons residing in approved shelters, another 45,000 are living as squatters . . . (OCHA 20 January 1998, UNDP project for IDPs, "Summary")

Water and Sanitation

Poor water and sanitation facilities in established IDP shelters and irregular IDP settlements led to outbreaks of water-borne diseases (July-August 2003)

- Acces to potable water severely compromised by inoperative status of the White Plains pumping station damage by a mortar
- In August Oxfam stated that there were reports of two to three deaths daily at Salala IDP camp due to diarrhea or other water-borne diseases
- In August, supplies of potable water exhausted in most parts of Monrovia
- UN OCHA and NGOs report that most IDPs use water from potentially contaminated sources such as surface water and dilapidated wells

"Most IDPs living in established shelters or irregular settlements face serious shortages of potable drinking water, sanitation facilities, and food. Access to potable water has been severely compromised by the inoperative status of the White Plains pumping station.

This situation has led to outbreaks of severe diarrheal disease and increases in the rate of malnutrition, particularly among children under age five. Oxfam stated on August 13 that there are reports of two or three deaths daily at Salala IDP camp due to diarrhea and other water-borne diseases.

"Lack of potable water. NGOs report that supplies of potable water have been exhausted in most parts of Monrovia. UNHCR reported that due to the prevailing rainy season, the water yield in most of Monrovia's deep wells has increased. However, the water is in need of chlorination.

UN OCHA and NGOs report that the majority of IDPs are using water from potentially contaminated sources such as surface water and dilapidated wells, increasing fears that cholera and other water-borne diseases are likely to spread rapidly. Although people have been able to collect some rainwater, storage containers are in short supply.

Damage to White Plains pumping station. On July 21, mortar fire damaged the White Plains pumping station, which is the primary supply of clean water for Monrovia, including IDP camps. Since July 30, the European Commission (EC), which supports the White Plains facility, has conducted damage assessments of the pumping station.

However, the EC reported that continued harassment, including demands for money, by competing groups in the area has hindered the assessments. Long-term security is needed for the repair and operation of the White Plains station.” (USAID, 13 August 2003)

“Clean water is in short supply, as collapsible tents have dried down and water sources from a few mostly contaminated wells, are too far away from IDPs' encampment sites. Latrines are not available to IDPs at most of the facilities. Food supplies are scarce and expensive. Businesses, including the local markets, remain closed and prices of limited foodstuffs sold within the encampment sites have doubled or tripled. Protein products, such as fish, pulses and meat are scarce but when found the prices are unaffordable for most of the population. Cholera outbreaks and other diseases are still prevalent and expected to get worse unless clean water and sanitation can be supplied.” (UN OCHA, 25 July 2003).

Poor water and sanitation facilities cause cholera in Monrovia and nearby IDP camps (2002)

- Hundreds of people from the densely populated suburbs of Monrovia and from IDP camps on the outskirts of the city are suffering from diarrhoea
- Some cholera cases have been reported, and more are expected due to poor water supply and sanitary conditions in the camps and in the country in general
- Water treatment plants and other facilities were damaged during hostilities, leaving the vast majority of Liberians without access to safe water or proper sanitation

"At least four out of over 600 diarrhoea patients reported in the Liberian capital, Monrovia, since July were suffering from cholera, according to government health officers.

Additional cholera cases are likely to be reported because of poor water supply and sanitary conditions in the country generally and in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs), they said. Continuing heavy rains could help the spread of the disease, they added.

Most of the people presenting with diarrhoea, and who were treated at the main John F Kennedy hospital, were from the densely populated suburbs of the city centre, from Gardnerville and Paynesville, and from IDP camps on the outskirts of the capital, according to sources in Monrovia.

Health ministry epidemiologist Charles Nagbe told IRIN on Friday - after a disease surveillance meeting held at the ministry - that chlorination of wells in Monrovia and around the country was due to begin.

The United Nations' World Health Organization (WHO) was helping the ministry conduct a month-long water and sanitation needs assessment, Nagbe said. Some members of the assessment team had been dispatched to the seven rural counties of Grand Bassa, Rivercess, Rivergee, Grand Kru, Maryland, Grand Gedeh and Sinoe.

A workshop to train 50 local health environment workers was also planned, Francis Kanu, head of the assessment team told IRIN.

Some 68 percent of Liberians have no access to safe water and 64 percent have no access to proper sanitation. In Monrovia, which has a population of at least one million people, residents have no access to treated pipe-borne water.

The main water treatment plant at White Plains on the outskirts of Monrovia suffered extensive damage during the country's civil war in the 1990s. Power supply systems were also damaged, leaving the country without electricity.

The public water company, Liberia Water and Sanitation Corporation, has not been able to repair the water treatment plant and restore safe water supply since then." (IRIN, 9 September 2002)

IDPS fleeing to Weinsu find inadequate water resources (April 2002)

- Fighting causes more than 7,000 IDPs to flee from Bellefanai camps to Weinsu, near the central town of Gbarnga
- Humanitarian organizations highlight the water shortage in the area

"Following the attack on Gbalatuah, an estimated 7,289 IDPs in Bellefanai Camps 1 and 2 had moved into Weinsu, 15 km south towards Gbarnga. This population has been on the move since the first attack on Lofa in 1999. An inter-agency meeting was held in Phebe on 20th April to discuss the crisis and agreed that an assessment mission be fielded to assess the situation at Bellefanai and Wiensu. However, humanitarian organizations have not been authorized to travel to Bellefanai. The mission visited Weinsu where most of the IDPs were stationed and one of the main findings indicate that the area has only one hand pump and a small water creek as the only sources of water. Considering the number of IDP and local population influxes, this water resource was considered inadequate and could soon be depleted. Taking into account the security situation and the lack of resources, Wiensu was also found not suitable location to establish a camp. Clearance is being sought from the Government through LRRRC to relocate the IDPs to CARI and TV Tower. However, while this clearance is being sought, IDPs have started moving to these camps." (UN OCHA, 23 April 2002)

Vulnerable groups

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

General

Thousands of IDPs sheltering in schools compounds in Monrovia should leave by mid-September, government says (September 2003)

- Out of 110 temporary shelters for IDPs in Monrovia, 47 are schools which host 47,000 people
- IDPs should leave so that classes can resume in November
- Formal education has been suspended in Monrovia since the rebel launched their first attack in early June
- IDPs leaving in schools will be registered and transport back to camps

“The Liberian government has asked thousands of displaced civilians sheltering in school compounds in the capital, Monrovia, to leave by mid-September so that classes can resume in November.

The Ministry of Education on Wednesday said that people should vacate all the primary schools in the city by 15 September. The normal school-year runs from September to June.

There are more than 110 temporary shelters for people displaced from their homes by recent fighting in and around Monrovia, of which 47 are schools.

Relief workers estimate that these schools and the Ministry of Education headquarters together host 47,000 people.

Some relief agencies, such as the International Rescue Committee, have attempted to locate a few teachers and resume makeshift classes for the children of displaced families, but all formal education has been suspended since rebels launched their first attack on the city in early June.

[...]

Officials from UN agencies, international aid agencies and the government’s Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), said on Thursday they would register the displaced people living in schools and transport them back next week to camps on the outskirts where they previously.

The Education Ministry hopes that all of Liberia’s 2700 primary schools, many of which have been shut down by 14 years of civil war, can open their doors in the first week of November - a month later than originally planned.

“It is going to be a massive operation, targeting a million children,” David Moussa Ntambara, Emergency Protection Officer for the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Liberia told IRIN on Thursday.

“But it is important to start because it is one way of returning life to normal in Liberia. It is also a protection mandate for UNICEF. We shall start with primary schools, then later other schools,” he added.

UNICEF is conducting an assessment to determine the extent of damage that Liberian schools have undergone as a result of conflict. The UN agency has brought in extra staff who have just re-established the school system in Afghanistan.

UNICEF said it would register teachers and pupils, put up temporary classrooms with tarpaulins where necessary, and ship into Monrovia boxes of notebooks, textbooks, pencils, chalk and other requirements over the next two months.

According to the Liberian Ministry of Education, the school system has been so badly affected during the decade and half of conflict that half of all children who should have gone to school did not.

As a result, 78 percent of Liberians are illiterate.

In the northwestern counties of Lofa, Gbarpolu and Grand Cape Mount, which have experienced continued conflict since 1989, education services have been seriously disrupted for over 10 years.

Only Monrovia, which is home to between a third and half of Liberia's three million population, managed to keep its schools open continuously until rebel fighters stormed into its western suburbs three months ago.

A recent government report said: "The conflict has caused untold damage to humans and the physical infrastructure of schools, emaciated parents and demoralized teachers and students. The war further depleted the education system of competence and quality,"

The Ministry of Education estimates that only 30 percent of the country's 18,000 teachers have any formal training. It also acknowledges that very few girls get a proper education. Only 27 percent of girls complete five years of primary school and at least half are married by the age of 16.

By the age of 18, 23 percent of Liberian women have had their first baby, giving the country one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates in the world.

According to the Ministry of Education many of the children who failed to go to schools have become child soldiers, street children and juvenile delinquents. The situation is worse in rural areas where many schools stopped functioning several years ago. (IRIN, 4 September 2003)

Aid agencies education plans disrupted as fighting continues (January-May 2003)

- The IRC was forced to temporarily close schools programs at camps following rebel attacks in Bong County but has restarted education programs at the camps in Monserrado County which surrounds Monrovia

"The situation in Bong County is also insecure. Rebels attacked three camps for internally displaced persons last month, causing 50,000 camp residents and locals to flee to nearby Totota town. "Their condition is deplorable," Woldemariam said. "They fled with no time to collect belongings. They just ran away, with nothing." The violence forced the closure of IRC school programs at the camps. Staff members are trying to place the displaced children in Totota schools. [...]

In Montserrado County, which surrounds Monrovia, IRC programs were briefly suspended after a series of attacks but have since resumed in most of the 10 camps that house some 120,000 Sierra Leonean refugees and 100,000 internally-displaced Liberians. IRC staff members have restarted education and health programs at the camps." (IRC, 7 May 2003)

"During the period under review, emergency IDP education supported by IRC was disrupted in central Liberia. Over 70% of the total population of 5,536 IDP students at CARI 1 and CARI 2 that were displaced due to fighting in Gbarnga, moved into Miamu camps in Totota. Furthermore, the recent attack on Ricks Institute IDP camp disrupted progress towards the start of the Rapid Response Education Program

supported by the NRC. The program was scheduled to begin the end of the month. Now that government has instructed the relocation of IDPs from the seven camps in Montserrado, it is unlikely that the 1,200 children targeted for phase 1 of academic work at shelters in Blamasee, Seigbeh and Wilson, would benefit from this assistance in the immediate term. NRC's RREP is aimed at preparing IDP students for full academic work prior to enrollment into proper schools.

UNICEF's Integrated Early Childhood Development Program for Bong was disrupted due to the fighting in the city of Gbarnga. During the foregoing period, information dissemination should have begun through out the communities in the county including Margibi, Bassa, Rivercess and Rural Montserrado. The process of informing residents in identified communities about UNICEF approach to child development is ongoing in the four counties not affected by the fighting. The IECDP would support awareness raising on protection issues, education, health and water and sanitation in communities in the five counties." (UN OCHA, 5 April 2003)

16,000 IDP children unable to go to school in 2002, IRC says

- A rapid assessment by IRC shows that lack of space in community schools in Monserrado County does not allow IDP children to go to school

"According to a rapid assessment carried out by International Rescue Committee (IRC), 16,500 IDP children are not able to go to school this year due to lack of space in community schools in Montserrado county. There are no emergency education structures in the camps to accommodate them and community schools in the host communities are overcrowded. However, UNICEF has established child friendly spaces in the camps to provide some of the children with learning environment. Nonetheless, this does not replace regular schooling programmes. In Bong County, IDP parents have taken the initiative to construct makeshift classrooms in some of the camps Ganta and Totota and are requesting assistance for roofing and learning materials. IDP teachers are volunteering to teach as soon as the materials are available. Efforts are being made by UNICEF, IRC and ICRC to support these schools. However, under funding has severely constrained the response capacity of agencies involved in this sector." (UN, OCHA, November 2002)

Few internally displaced receive schooling (1998-2001)

- IDP girls in special need of emergency education in life skills to protect them from sexual abuse
- Other education needs of IDPs include advocacy, hygiene education, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS/STD control
- Overall, school enrollment in Liberia is low due to civil war and renewed violence since 1999-2000

"In the absence of education and livelihood opportunities, disaffected youth have little opportunities for a constructive future, and may become a threat to security. Analysis of displacement has shown that girls face the highest risk, both during displacement and in camps, where they are exposed to rape and prostitution. Hence, the need for special emergency education in life skills such as hygiene, reproductive health and the prevention of STDs and HIV/AIDS.

Following the war, years of underdevelopment and national debt, education sector indicators are depressingly unfavourable, and particularly prejudiced against girls. Enrolment data reflects access to basic education, while showing elements of quality and relevance and the effects of these last two factors on retention of girls in the school system.

The education system reflects significant gaps in enrolment, retention, and performance with gender disparity in all of Liberia's 14 counties. Like other countries in West and Central Africa, there is stronger evidence of parity of enrolment during early childhood followed by unacceptably low completion rates of the primary education cycle. Of a total enrolment of 507,192 primary school students, 42.3% are female. By high school, more than 70% of secondary school-age girls have dropped out of school – many due to teenage pregnancy, early marriage or other traditional practices, which hamper girls' access to education. Gender gaps have the most debilitating effects on girls and women when viewed in the context of adult literacy rates, at 48.9% for males and only 26.3% for females.

Further analysis of the situation, within the IDP context, shows that girls face the highest risk both during the migration and in the camps where they are exposed to rape and prostitution. Furthermore, a number of families have been separated as men and boys are forced into recruitment making them more vulnerable. In the absence of education and livelihood opportunities, these youth remain a threat to themselves and to regional peace and security. Hence, the need for special emergency intervention activities, including life skills education, advocacy, hygiene education, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS/STD control.

[...]

Low government investment in basic services for children, coupled with limited donor response for education activities, means that many of the children of school-going age are not attending school. In particular, schooling is out of reach for those children in the war-affected areas of Lofa and the IDP camps. Subsequently, there is a high level of juvenile delinquency with many children and youth prone to recruitment into the military and other armed groups." (UN November 2001)

"[After the flaring up of fighting in the Lofa County in February and March 2001], schools [were] closed in the area. Once again the education of hundreds of thousands of Liberian children from this area, who had earlier lost a decade of schooling during the civil crisis, are again out of school." (ACT Appeal Liberia, 30 March 2001, p. 4)

"Although secondary school enrollment more than doubled during the year as families returned home and some schools re-opened, more than half of school-age children still did not attend school, according to one estimate. Low teacher salaries equivalent to as little as \$10 per month, coupled with late payment of salaries and lack of school supplies, triggered frequent strikes by teachers and students in some areas of the country." (USCR 2000, p. 101)

"For instance, in a number of displaced persons' camps, Liberian children at the elementary school level were able to attend the schooling provided by UNHCR. At the high school level, however, only Sierra Leonean refugees received scholarships from UNHCR. In other cases, children were attending elementary schools set up by humanitarian organizations in the area. However, little or no educational opportunities were available for displaced children of high school age. In some camps, children were not at school at all. In Kakata, one teacher noted that their makeshift schools were full, even though many children were not in school. However, even when children attended school, teachers found it difficult to get them to concentrate, often because they were hungry." (Nowrojee 1998, p. 44)

ISSUES OF SELF-RELIANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Self-reliance

Continuous population movements erode coping mechanisms of IDPs and host populations alike (July-August 2003)

- Food insecurity has increased as commercial food imports have practically stopped
- Fighting and looting countrywide has halted agricultural activities
- Farmer unable to bring their produce to Monrovia due to war and general fuel shortage
- Many Monrovia's residents who used to offer sanctuary to IDPs are now displaced by war

“Continuous population movements have eroded coping mechanisms of IDPs and host populations alike. Household food insecurity has increased as commercial food imports have practically stopped. The situation has been compounded by general looting of stores, leading to a rise in the price of food.

In Monrovia, the price of a cup of rice has risen from 10 Liberian Dollars to 100 Liberian Dollars in recent weeks. Fighting and looting countrywide has virtually halted agricultural activities, also increasing food insecurity.

The few farmers engaged in agricultural production are unable to bring their produce to Monrovia because of the war and the general fuel shortage. Consequently the flow of fresh food commodities, especially locally grown vegetables and fruits, from the interior into Monrovia has completely stopped.

Many of Monrovia's residents, who had been offering sanctuary to IDPs and refugees, have now been displaced by war. A declining national economy, exacerbated by the war, forced most Liberians to rely almost exclusively on remittances from overseas, particularly the United States.

Intensive fighting in Monrovia has led to the closure of most of the financial institutions that process these remittances, thus aggravating the penury of the beneficiaries.” (UN OCHA, 7 August 2003).

Food security situation is fragile due to continuous displacement (2002)

- Disrupted agricultural activity in much of western Liberia exacerbates the already fragile food security situation
- ACF assessment in Salala district in May 2002 confirms that major constraint facing IDPs is lack of cash with which to purchase food
- Coping mechanisms include selling of personal items and assets, and widespread begging
- In some places, farming inputs provided by humanitarian agencies have been looted by assailants

"ACF conducted a food security assessment in May 2002 in the town of Tota in Salala district. The town has remained free of security incidents but has been hosting a large IDP population from surrounding areas and, in particular, from the attacks on Gbarnga. The assessment indicated that

farming activities are ongoing but are seriously curtailed by the ongoing insecurity. The availability of food in the markets is good but it is not available to IDPs and to the majority of the local population. Since most of western Liberia has been effected by insecurity, which has traditionally supplied the capital with much of its food requirements, the central regions are under increased pressure to supply food. As a result, available food sources are bought by traders from Monrovia and shipped straight to the capital.

The major constraint faced by IDPs is the lack of cash with which they can purchase food. One of the main sources of cash is through casual work but this is becoming increasingly scarce due to the large number of people available. Wild food sources are increasingly limited and the increasing number of IDPs means that residents are increasingly unable to support them. Many of the IDPs interviewed indicated that they had already resorted to erosive coping strategies such as the selling of personal items and key assets and more than half indicated that begging had been their main source of food the previous day (ACF 05/02). The main concerns from the assessment were that both food availability and accessibility were extremely poor and that there were indications of more desperate coping strategies employed by IDPs. The assessment also indicated that there was increasing evidence of poor nutritional status although no data exists. The IDPs must be considered to be extremely vulnerable and further deteriorations in their situation can be expected unless the overall security situation improves dramatically in the near future." (UN SSCN, 26 July 2002)

"A humanitarian source also expressed fear that the ongoing insecurity could impact negatively on the mid-term food security in the country, given that this is the planting season.

'According to a recent rapid food assessment by various relief organisations, coping mechanisms of the freshly displaced people were becoming limited,' the source told IRIN.

'In some places, where the displaced settled for a while, farming tools or seeds given by humanitarian agencies were looted by assailants,' the source added. In other areas, land acquisition had proved difficult for the displaced. Due to the insecurity, the IDPs had been unable to go to the forest to forage for food as an alternative, he added.

Food security will be adversely affected since fighting has affected the farm belts of the country, he noted, saying 'These are the areas that produce the largest amounts of rice which is the country's main staple food.'

'We cannot talk of people buying imported rice in a country with an 85 percent unemployment rate. People simply don't have money to purchase imported food,' he added." (IRIN, 6 June 2002)

Repeated displacement has eroded family and community coping mechanisms (2002)

- Some IDPs have been displaced as many as five times in six months, further destabilising their coping mechanisms as they lose everything in flight
- Overall condition of IDPs who are almost constantly on the move is deteriorating rapidly, despite humanitarian assistance
- Increasing number of IDPs is also placing a heavy burden on impoverished host communities, further stretching their coping mechanisms as well

"Most displaced persons are women and children, and their condition is deteriorating rapidly despite humanitarian assistance. IDPs are currently on the road during what is the difficult long rainy season (until November). Deteriorating health, poor nutritional condition, trauma, socio-economic dislocation and the breakdown of family and community coping mechanisms are some of the challenges faced by these

communities. Some IDPs have been displaced up to five times in six months. Each time their coping mechanisms have been further destabilized and the mental and physical impact is considerable as they lose everything in their flight. There is a definite danger of creating assistance dependence for these vulnerable people. Numerous families have become separated because they suddenly had to leave the scene in a panic.

Fearful of possible attacks, civilians have been fleeing their homes in advance, hence avoiding being trapped in conflict zones. However, vacated areas are very often later looted. Even if the situation were to improve there is little to return back to.

At the same time, Phebe Hospital, the only referral hospital for the Bong County and the surrounding IDP camps, had to close down and evacuate the inpatients to Totota and to the St Joseph Catholic hospital in Monrovia.

The further displacement and increase of IDPs is also a factor of tension in Liberian society. IDPs place a heavy burden on the coping mechanism of already impoverished host communities. This in turn leads to the registration of a considerable number of host communities' members as IDPs in the established camps. Further displacement of populations is likely to have far reaching consequences on the survival economy of the already weakened rural communities throughout the country." (ICRC, 24 May 2002)

IDPs involved in various self-help activities (October 2001)

- IDPs with a professional background in education, health and the like serve as volunteers or for humanitarian aid agencies
- Some informal income-generating activities have been undertaken
- Protection needs and conflict-resolution have also been addressed by IDPs in certain camps

"It was clear from the plenary discussion that IDPs are involved in a series of self-help activities. Those with a professional background, particularly in health or education, are often hired or involved as volunteers by the authorities and the humanitarian agencies. The professional jobs held by IDPs include: nurses, midwives, hygiene promoters, physician assistants and teachers. In an effort to provide for IDP children's education, displaced teachers are often asked to continue their profession in the camps. Furthermore, some informal income generating activities are also undertaken, often in the form of small businesses or temporary employment with NGOs or the host community. In addition, some IDPs supplement the food aid they receive by growing their own food in small backyard gardens.

Protection needs have also been addressed through IDPs own self-help strategies. Unarmed IDP Camp Guards, with responsibility for internal security in the camps, have been recruited from within the IDPs themselves. IDPs are also involved in conflict resolution in the camps through the camp leadership and the representatives of LRRRC." (NRC October 2001)

Public participation

Guidelines have been set out for IDP camp management (October 2001)

- A Draft Policy Framework for IDP Camp Management drawn up by the LRRRC foresees IDP representatives on the Camp Management Teams

"3.1 The Camp Management Team

The Camp Management Team shall be structured as follows:

LRRRC - Chairman/Camp Coordinator
Lead NGO - Co-Chairman
Selected INGO - member
IDP Center Block Leaders - 1 representative per block
Women's Representative

Responsibilities of the Camp Management Team

The responsibilities of the Camp Management Team shall consist of but not be limited to the following:

Daily general supervision/management of the camp
Monitor all humanitarian interventions
Resolve all minor disputes/issues in the Camp
Collect data for a unified and credible Data Base
Promulgate rules and guidelines for the block leadership teams in accordance with these guidelines
Establish information center for proper and timely information dissemination to IDPs, NGOs, INGOs, UN Agencies and the local and national government institutions.
Ensure that assistance to the block residents is equitably distributed in accordance with the norm defined by the donor or contributor. (see sectoral guidelines in Annex for more details)
Organize sectoral committees
Promote the active participation of IDPs in all daily activities in the camp.
Perform any and all other functions that favour the general welfare of the IDPs

Responsibilities of the Camp Coordinator

Perform daily general supervision and administration of their respective CDPs
Coordinate the overall supervision and administration of all humanitarian assistance
Intervene in resolving all inter-agency issues arising thereof and the resolution of minor infraction in the CDP
Organize NGO Coordination Meeting at all CDP
Establish Camp Management Team
Report to LRRRC Central Office on a weekly basis all issues and outstanding needs of concern pertaining to the welfare of the IDPs
Perform any other function assigned thereto by the LRRRC Management.
Build harmonious relationship with the NGO Community.
Record new arrivals and departures from a CDP.
Ensure good sanitation condition in CDP.
Provide physical protection for staff of the INGOs, NGOs, UN Agencies and the IDPs in the CDPs.

3.2 Lead Agency

The concept of a lead agency is not a new development in the management of camps for internally displaced persons in Liberia. The lead agency concept entails that a particular agency is the head of all other humanitarian agencies in a camp.

Responsibilities of the Lead Agency are to:

Direct, co-ordinate and report on humanitarian intervention in a camp.
Assist the LRRRC to maintain a credible database of humanitarian interventions and the demography of the internally displaced people.
Assist the LRRRC in the general management of the camp.

3.3 Block Leaders

Each block shall have a leadership structure of five persons. The inclusion of women in the structure is highly emphasised.

The Block leadership Team shall comprise the following positions:

Block Leader
Block Co-Leader
Secretary
Women's Representative
Adviser

3.4 Procedures for Selection of IDP Leadership

All members of the block leadership will be elected by sleeping resident and ration cardholders. In an event where the block residents can not by themselves, make a selection, the Camp Management Team will assist them make a decision. All blocks should be kept to a maximum size of about 2000 residents.

Block leadership tenure of office shall initially be for a period of six (6) months. Thereafter, block leadership tenure shall be extended for a period of one (1) year.

In the election of block leadership, all efforts should be made to include females' participation. Female leadership should particularly be emphasized and encouraged.

4.0 Coordination Mechanisms

4.1 In order to ensure maximum collaboration amongst LRRRC, the IDPs, implementing INGOs and NGOs and the UN Agencies, the Camp Management Team is required to meet in full session once every week. At these meetings, a thorough review of activities of the camp will be discussed with appropriate action(s) taken.

At the Camp/Center Management Meeting, decisions reached should focus on:

- a. Ongoing interventions
- b. Identification and prioritization of outstanding needs (immediate)
- c. Issues of concern, which should be immediately transmitted to the IDP humanitarian coordination meeting through the LRRRC Central Office in Monrovia. The Resident Representative of an intervening organization may report the same issues to their relevant head offices.

4.2 The field IDP humanitarian co-ordination meeting will be held weekly to discuss the reports of the Camp Management Team and make recommendations, where appropriate, to the central coordination meeting.

4.3 A humanitarian or intervening agency may decide to take action in response to the needs of the IDPs. Said action or intervention should be with the consent of the Liberia Refugee Repatriation & Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) and within the context of the general policy framework of government as pursued by the LRRRC and the Camp Management Teams.

4.4 No institution, NGO or non-intervening partner is allowed to conduct workshops, seminars, symposia; similarly, there shall be no mass meeting held by any organization without the prior consent of the LRRRC Management.

5.0 Sectoral Committees

5.1 There shall be in every camp the below listed Sectoral Committees, which shall be headed by an agency with specialisation in that sector:

Shelter Committee

Food Committee
Water and Sanitation Committee
Health Committee
Non-food Item Committee
Child Protection and Family Unification Committee
Agriculture and Food Security Committee

5.2 The responsibilities and functions of these committees will be defined appropriately to form part of these guidelines. See attached Sectoral Guidelines.

6.0 Maintenance of Safety and Protection

The Camp Management Team will make every effort to ensure the safety and protection of the camp and its inhabitants at all times. The block team leadership is the first level of conflict or dispute resolution amongst its residents. The Camp/Center Management Team is the final level of dispute resolution amongst the residents of a given camp.

Decision of the Camp Management Team is appealable to the Programme Office of the LRRRC. Any party to a dispute who is not satisfied with the decision of Programme Office/LRRRC may seek redress with the Executive Management of LRRRC.

Cases involving criminal nature shall be forwarded immediately to the nearby magisterial or Justice of the Peace Court without delay for prosecution

7.0 Registration Procedure

The LRRRC in collaboration with INGOs, NGOs, UN Agencies and the Camp Management Committee will register incoming IDPs into recognized IDP Centers after being screened by the Joint Security Authorities.

See attached Ministry of Justice Screening Guidelines.

Registration Process

1. Upon the arrival at the CDP, the prospective IDP along with his/her family is ushered to the main registration center for identification and regulation purpose.
2. The prospective IDP family information is recorded in the primary ledger, either as a family head or as a single person. Ration cards will be issued by the Camp Management Team. This ration card will indicate the registration number and name of the family head, family size and the block or transit center to which he/she is assigned, while his/her family structure is being constructed. The card will be used for identification and distribution purposes.
3. Having received the Ration Card, the family head with his/her family will be taken to the block or transit center and introduced to the block team, who shall recount the members of the family as registered on the ration card. Upon confirmation that all members of the family are accounted for, the name of each person in the family is to be recorded in the block ledger. The block ledger represents the manifest of all individuals residing in the block.
4. The block manifest is the most detailed record of a camp. The block manifest is very important for the distribution of relief assistance, monitoring and the provision of services." (Draft IDP Camp Management Guidelines as found in NRC Training Workshop document October 2001)

Participants at NRC training agreed that IDPs should be involved in decision-making processes (October 2001)

- Participants at NRC training agreed that IDPs should be involved in camp management
- Participants pointed out that women IDPs had a special role to play in management and leadership of the camps

"Participants agreed that IDPs are to some extent involved in decision-making processes and activities affecting their lives as displaced persons. When there is a need to discuss issues related to the well-being of the displaced persons in the camps an assigned person, a so called "community crier", calls a general meeting of camp residents. In these meetings, issues such as camp layout, installation of hand pumps, construction of pit latrines etc. have been discussed. The concerns raised during these meetings are later referred to the representatives of the LRRRC.

The recently developed Draft Policy Framework for IDP Camp Management (see annex) foresees IDP representatives on the Camp Management Team. The next administrative level in the camps, the Block Teams (IDP camp sections housing up to 2000 camp residents), are entirely made up of camp residents elected by the IDP community.

The issue of women's participation caused a lively discussion among participants. Currently all camp leaders are men, which was seen as far from ideal. On the level of the Block Teams (currently ad hoc), there are some IDP women represented and the Draft Policy Framework encourages female leadership. However, in the future, all members of the Block Teams will be elected and there is no guarantee that IDP women will be among them. The international agencies have therefore suggested that the LRRRC make the participation of at least one woman on each Block Team compulsory." (NRC October 2001)

National Red Cross training IDPs to run certain camp facilities at TV Tower camp (October 2001)

- IDP camp chairman at TV Tower camp helps to settle disputes and give advice
- Red Cross has helped IDPs to play a greater role in decision-making and management at the camp

"George Paywala, an IDP, is camp chairman [at TV Tower camp]. He explains, 'I am something like a village chief. Along with the other elders I settle disputes and give advice. This is my role. The Red Cross has done a great job for us and we have worked hand-in-hand to make this camp a decent place for us to live. We will not soon forget what the Red Cross has done.

But the situation in Lofa is still unstable and people in the camp are reluctant to go home. 'Over the next few months, the ICRC will be helping the National Society develop its capacity to assume responsibility for TV Tower camp,' says Liberian Red Cross Secretary General Daniel Clarke. 'We in turn are training IDPs to run certain camp facilities. Over time, we hope to see the camp increasingly run by the IDPs themselves.'" (IFRC 29 October 2001)

ISSUES OF FAMILY UNITY, IDENTITY AND CULTURE

General

Fighting in Lofa results in separation of families (December 2000-August 2001)

- SCF has documented over 6,000 cases of child separation as result of new displacements in Lofa county
- Separated children are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse
- Reunification efforts are made difficult by multiple waves of displacement in the country
- ICRC in concert with National Societies is helping re-establish contact both within and across borders in the region

"Between February and June of this year [2001] 241 children (145 boys and 96 girls) from current conflict related displacement were identified and rapidly reunified with their families, mainly by SCF's CBO partners. 153 children (89 boys and 64 girls) are waiting reunification.

[...]

"Many displaced children became separated from their families; SCUK has documented over 6,000 such cases, and there are now new family separations as a result of the recent displacement of people from Lofa County.

Separated children are often particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. They can be recruited as soldiers in the fighting forces or, as in the case of young girls, may be abducted as wives or domestic slaves, forced into exploitative labour or commercial sex or into abusive foster care situations and suffer long term or perhaps permanent family separation. Most of the teenage girls who were reunited with their families were either pregnant, were already mothers, or had experienced either sexual abuse or sexual exploitation. Some of the boys and girls have experienced multiple foster care or have lived in abusive foster family situations. Some of those who came into conflict with the law also suffered from abusive treatments at the hands of the law enforcement agencies.

Seven years of war and displacement have hampered reunification efforts: in some cases parents and other family members have died; in others they have moved so many times that they are impossible to trace. But even when parents or relatives can be found, reunification may be difficult. Families may not be able to support their children or, if the child has been separated for a long period, reintegration can be too traumatic. As a result, children do sometimes drop out of their families." (SCF 2 August 2001)

"There is also a major need to help separated families re-establish contact [...] the tracing network is being strengthened to respond to increased needs; so far the ICRC has set up tracing antennae in all the camps to enable separated families to make use of the Red Cross message network to re-establish contact with their family members; the family reunification of unaccompanied children (UACs) will be extended to include Liberian refugees children and displaced UACs." (ICRC 31 July 2001)

"The Red Cross tracing network in the three countries of the region [Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone] is instrumental in restoring family links between displaced people, refugees and returnees and their relatives who have been separated. Between January and September [2000], the ICRC, together with the Sierra Leone Red Cross, handled more than 46,000 Red Cross messages (RCMs) inside Sierra Leone as well as between Sierra Leone and other countries. In Liberia 2,437 RCMs were handled in cooperation with the

Liberian Red Cross Society and 7,638 RCMs were handled by the ICRC in Guinea over the same period." (ICRC 15 December 2000)

"Many displaced children became separated from their families; SCUUK has documented 4,993 such cases, and there are now reports of further separation as a result of the recent displacement of people from Zorzor town.

[...]

Seven years of war and displacement have hampered reunification efforts: in many cases all the family members are dead. In others they have moved so many times that they are impossible to trace. But even when parents or relatives can be found, reunification may be difficult. Families may not be able to support their children. Or, if the child has been separated for a long period, difficulties during the reintegration process could lead to the children dropping out of their families.

[...]

"At present, there are an estimated 20,000 separated children in Liberia and neighbouring countries. SCUUK has helped to reunite over 2,000 of these children in Liberia alone with their families." (SCF 24 November 2000)

PROPERTY ISSUES

General

Fighting in Lofa County has led to destruction of property and infrastructure (April 2001)

- Pattern of disrespect and destruction of property has developed over last years
- IDPs forced to leave their homes have been heavily affected by destruction and looting of property
- The crisis has had adverse effect on infrastructure, including churches, schools, health facilities and communities
- There has been a lost of harvest, tools, seeds and other properties including household utensils, with fighters massively looting these items

"Lastly, the protection of IDP property, insufficiently addressed by international law but covered by the Guiding Principles, was a cause of concern among participants. During the last decade of almost on-going conflict, a pattern of disrespect for private and public property has reportedly developed. Destruction and theft of property has affected the displaced from Lofa County as well as those who chose to stay behind. The armed actors were seen as the main culprits, but participants agreed that civilians also take advantage of the general turmoil during armed conflict.

In relation to theft of humanitarian assistance, a representative of the security forces argued that one way to prevent diversion of humanitarian relief items would be to assign 5% of the deliveries to IDPs for the armed forces in order to guarantee their minimum needs and to avoid theft. Other participants rejected this proposal and favored a solution linked to better and more regular pay for the soldiers.

In conclusion, a representative of the LRRRC reminded participants that his agency has a number of Legal Officers, which can advocate and defend the rights of IDPs if protection cases are drawn to their attention. In response, a participant expressed concern that the LRRRC is effectively addressing issues of humanitarian assistance, but that sensitive protection issues, such as rape and sexual abuse, have not received sufficient attention by the agency, partly because these issues are often not brought to the attention of LRRRC." (NRC October 2001)

"Reports from conflict areas speak of wanton destruction of properties and lives. In the absence of a settlement to the conflict, people are using feeder and bush routes to find their way to safety. In Liberia, serious damage has been done to public and private properties in western Liberia. About three years ago, farmers abandoned the border areas where about 12,500 hectares of rice and cassava were cultivated before the civil war. The situation is much worse now on the north-west border with Sierra Leone and Guinea.

The crisis has had an adverse effect on infrastructure including churches, schools, health facilities and communities. For example, the major town of north-west Liberia, Voinjama (the seat of Lofa County) has almost been completely destroyed with few houses left standing. Foya district has seen several bombardments in recent times and massive property destruction. Currently, reports abound of Guinean forces taking over two border towns within Liberia. Should this be true, it is clear that any attempt to remove those forces from that area will lead to the destruction of lives and properties.

[...]

Homes of civilians fleeing the fighting have been completely looted; while some homes have been burned.

[...]

The war in Liberia destroyed nearly all infrastructures including private homes, public buildings, schools, hospitals and clinics. Opposing forces indiscriminately burned down buildings. There is a loss of harvest, tools, seeds and other properties including household utensils. Fighters massively looted these items." (ACT Appeal Liberia, 23 April 2001)

Ethnic Mandingoes unable to reclaim land from squatters (1998-2000)

"Returnees in some areas, particularly ethnic Mandingoes in northern Liberia's Lofa and Nimba counties, reportedly were unable to reclaim their land from squatters. Farmers in some areas complained that land disputes, harassment by government security personnel, and shortages of seeds and tools were hurting crop production." (USCR 2000, p. 101)

"In some cases, displaced people returned to find what remained of their homes occupied. In particular, returnees of Mandingo origin returned to find their houses occupied. The long-standing discrimination in Liberia against Mandingos as 'aliens' or 'foreigners' has contributed to the sentiment that Mandingo-owned property could be appropriated." (Nowrojee 1998, pp. 44-45)

PATTERNS OF RETURN AND RESETTLEMENT

General

Establishment of services in camps and their improvement is needed to encourage IDPs return (August 2003)

- In Montserrado County the number of IDPs returning to camps is increasing
- The WFP expressed concerns about the risk of irregular camp residents who caused disturbances and fraud in the past

“The number of IDPs returning to camps in Montserrado County continues to increase.

[...]

According to the USAID DART, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) is planning for the return of IDPs to the Montserrado camps but has expressed concern about the risk of the same irregular camp residents who caused disturbances and fraud in these camps in the past. WFP feels strongly that adequate security and protection must be in place before the IDPs return.

The USAID DART reported on August 22 that visiting European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) representative traveled to the Montserrado camps and reported an estimated population of 3,000 people in Ricks Institute, 1,000 in Plankor, 500 in Segbe, and 400 in Blamase.

ECHO estimated that there are 500 people each in Wilson Corner, Voice of America, and Jar Thondo camps.

According to ECHO, IDP return should be encouraged with the establishment of services in the camps and the termination of food distributions in the irregular shelters after the first 14-day ration. (USAID, 27 August 2003)

Returnees to Tubmanburg face grim conditions (September 2002)

- About 1,000 people - mostly women and children - returned to Tubmanburg from Bopolu and surrounding villages after government forces dislodged rebels from the town in July 2002
- Inter-agency assessment mission found limited access to food, curtailed freedom of movement, destruction of homes and property, and lack of assistance

"On 3 September, an Inter-agency assessment mission led by OCHA and LRRRC visited Tubmanburg. Agencies that participated include WHO, CRS, OXFAM, LWF/WS, WVI, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP and UN Information Center.

The assessment mission aim was to determine the security and the humanitarian situation in Tubmanburg and its immediate surroundings following reports of return of civilians to the city in poor humanitarian conditions. The government forces had taken control of the city in July when they dislodged the LURD rebels. The mission estimated that there were about 1,000 persons that returned from Bopolu and

surrounding villages. Access to food was limited and they are foraging for food in nearby abandoned farms. They are forced to obtain clearance from the local security forces to gather food and firewood.

Destruction and looting of town houses was evident as some of the buildings were riddled with bullet and artillery holes. The hospital as well as offices of the humanitarian agencies were also looted. A part from MSF-CH that provides twice a week mobile clinic services, there were no other assistance to the returnees who are mainly composed of women and children. The mission recommended that local authorities return to the city as soon as possible to restore law and order and boost confidence of the local population. There is need to provide a one month food distribution to the local residents and humanitarian agencies to carry out a more in-depth assessment of needs." (UN OCHA, 14 September 2002)

Reintegration of IDPs and refugees seen as major aspect of peace building (November 2001)

- UN says restoration of basic social services to serve as catalyst for resettlement and reintegration of IDPs
- Social reintegration, including the rehabilitation of ex-combatants, identified as key element towards consolidation of peace

"The recent fighting in northern Lofa County has caused substantial displacement of IDPs into neighbouring counties of Bong, Grand Cape Mount and Gbarpolu. Most of the social infrastructure - schools and clinics - have been damaged. There is immediate need for a wide range of communitybased relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance to help already impoverished rural communities to cope with the influx of IDPs. Restoration of basic social services will serve as a catalyst for the resettlement and reintegration of IDPs and returnees from Guinea, should the prospect for peace in the Mano River Union be consolidated. Assistance will also improve the well-being of the host communities, who have been exposed to tremendous suffering.

Social reintegration of communities, including the rehabilitation of ex-combatants and the resettlement of refugees and displaced persons within existing communities, was identified as a key element towards the consolidation of peace and democracy following the seven-year civil conflict in Liberia. However, the absence of functioning infrastructure prevented the social reintegration of communities and the reconstruction of community life.

In this context, the international community has provided support for the resettlement and reintegration of IDPs and returning refugees as well as receiving communities in rural towns and villages, primarily through the restoration of basic social services. This includes the rehabilitation of schools, clinics and hospitals, economic infrastructure, construction of culverts and bridges, water wells and latrines and support to community-based agriculture activities through the provision of seeds and tools. However, given the severity of war-related damage, there is need to further support communities and to extend assistance to others that have not yet benefited from the programme, which is greater than the existing resources within UNDP and other agencies.

In addition to the rehabilitation of the social infrastructure through discrete community-level interventions, support will be provided to strengthen the coping capacity of the host communities, thus contributing to political and economic stability through a participatory approach. Collaboration with other partners providing similar services will be encouraged." (UN November 2001)

Some IDPs in Monrovia made assisted move home in early 2001 (February 2001)

- By March 2001, 1,500 IDPs returned home from Monrovia to Sinoe County with the help of ICRC
- LRRRC has been able to resettle some 126,243 displaced persons since 1998
- The Red Cross has transported 2,321 IDPs to the Southeast since 1998
- Internally displaced persons are supplied with shelter materials and tools
- Nearly 90 percent of all internally displaced to have returned home by end of 1999

"Today, Monrovia is still temporary home to almost 3,000 displaced persons from the south. For nearly a decade, unusable or dangerous roads have prevented these people from returning to their homes. But this is changing.

On 27 February, an ICRC-chartered ship began taking on board the first 288 persons prepared to return to the area of Greenville, in Sinoe county. " (ICRC 1 March 2001)"Between 27 February and 28 March, more than 1,500 displaced people were brought back by boat from Monrovia, the Liberian capital, to the coastal cities of Greenville and Harper. This marked the end of a four-stage operation organized by the ICRC in cooperation with the Liberia National Red Cross Society and the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission. Those returning to their homes had fled the conflict area in south-eastern Liberia during the 1990s to take refuge in Monrovia, where they had lived a precarious existence ever since.

For their journey by boat, which lasted between 36 and 48 hours, the passengers were given food, water and blankets. Upon arrival in Greenville and Harper, they were cared for in a transit centre. Most were then ferried by truck to their home regions. They were given tarpaulins and soap by the ICRC and dry food rations (50 kg for four persons) by the World Food Programme.

Of the 2,700 or so displaced people registered by the ICRC, nearly 1,200 decided in the end to remain in Monrovia. The other 1,500 chose to return to their home villages with the help of the ICRC. The majority of these were women (45% of the registered heads of households) and children. Several international humanitarian organizations took part in this operation." (ICRC 1 April 2001)

"In August 2000, the Red Cross helped some 604 IDPs, from 348 families, to return to their homesteads in the Southeast (counties of Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Sinoe, Maryland). This brought to 2,321 the total number of IDPs transported back to the region since the operation started in 1998. Family kits were distributed to the returnees, as well as 23 community kits of shelter materials and tools. The community kits, which are intended to boost communities' efforts to rehabilitate basic social services, were distributed after a joint chapter and relief department assessment targeting the most vulnerable." (IFRC 20 February 2001)

"As a result of the civil war, there were 157,000 IDPs in approximately 36 camps in 1997. International agencies and the Liberian Refugee, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) have been able to resettle approximately 126,243 displaced persons since 1998. In October [2000] the fighting in northern Lofa county further increased the number of displaced persons. There were an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 IDPs in the country at year's end. International and local NGOs faced limited funding and resources to assist these IDPs." (USDOS February 2001, sect. 2, d)

Nearly 90% of all internally displaced to have returned home by end of 1999

"Approximately two-thirds of all Liberian refugees and nearly 90 percent of all internally displaced Liberians had returned to their home areas by the end of 1999. An estimated 350,000 refugees have repatriated since mid-1997. In 1999, some 80,000 to 100,000 refugees and tens of thousands of internally displaced persons returned home." (USCR 2000, p. 100)

"We [UNDP] assisted over 130,000 [IDPs] to relocate to communities of origin from late 1997 to early this year [2000]." (UNDP 26 September 2000)

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

General

Security remains an important precondition for the humanitarian aid distribution to resume properly (August 2003)

- Gbarnga is still inaccessible to relief workers
- Humanitarian operations are limited despite the presence of ECOMIL, the security situation remains poor throughout Liberia
- Humanitarian organizations are unable to provide assistance without basic security for the area surrounding the White Plains pumping station, the Free Port of Monrovia
- Looting and vandalism of assets and offices compromise the ability of humanitarian agencies to respond appropriately to the needs of IDPs.
- Renewed skirmishes hamper the work of aid agencies
- During the week of August 25, a EC representative's vehicle was hijacked
- Civilians miss out on rations because caught up in the clashes relief workers cannot reach them or because gunmen grab what they have been given
- In August WFP and other NGOs reported that IDP camps outside of Monrovia and the surrounding area have been inaccessible since June, while the humanitarian situation there is expected to be catastrophic

“Gbarnga is currently inaccessible to relief workers, although the Accra Peace Agreement demands that all fighting groups allow unhindered access by all humanitarian agencies to vulnerable groups throughout the country.

[...]

An IRIN correspondent saw hundreds of the displaced people walking in the rain along the highway from Monrovia to Harbel, near the airport, carrying mattresses and other personal belongings on their heads. They were mainly women and children.

Chea said the fleeing civilians told him that they could hear heavy shelling from the direction of Compound Number One, a village near Lloydsville.” (IRIN, 24 August 2003)

“Despite the presence of ECOMIL, the security situation remains poor throughout Liberia, limiting humanitarian operations, particularly food and water distributions. According to the USAID DART, during the week of August 25, a European Commission (EC) representative's vehicle was hijacked.

In Monrovia, residents are still apprehensive about venturing from their homes due to the continuing but largely unseen presence of armed GOL irregulars. ECOMIL peacekeeping troops have set up checkpoints on major roads into Monrovia, replacing those previously manned by LURD rebels or GOL irregular troops.” (USAID, 27 August 2003)

“The security situation is still very fluid in many parts of Liberia and this hampers efforts by relief workers to reach vulnerable people,” Ross Mountain, Special United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Liberia told IRIN.

The ebullient Liberian Defence Minister, Daniel Chea, blamed by many for sanctioning atrocities by government troops, said he was also concerned that renewed skirmishes would affect the activities of relief workers.

“Renewed clashes have a very big impact on humanitarian work. It stops relief workers from doing their job. We don’t want that to happen,” Chea told IRIN in an interview.

Civilians caught up in the clashes have found themselves missing out on rations because relief workers cannot reach them or because gunmen grab what they have been given.

“There is no point giving us food when we are on the run. The armed fighters simply loot it from us,” Robert Sulu, a local clan chief at Totota, 109m km north of Monrovia, told IRIN.

[...]

Relief workers in Monrovia said there were so many undisciplined, unpaid often drunk gunmen roaming Liberia’s villages and towns that it is difficult to tell which gunman belonged to which group. (IRIN, 28 August 2003)

“Information on the situation in the rest of the country is largely anecdotal aside from the few towns reached in recent days by humanitarian missions. However, 3,000 to 4,000 people are reportedly on the road from Gbatala to Salala towards displaced camps in central Liberia, amid reports of fresh fighting between government and rebel forces. Fighting has been reported near Gbatala, about 100 kilometers northeast of Monrovia.

[...]

The humanitarian community is still working on gaining access outside Monrovia. Missions to Bo Waterside, Buchanan, Tubmanburg and greater Monrovia and Montserrado have been conducted.

The UN inter-agency mission to Bo Waterside noted that despite bad roads between Bo and Zimmi in Sierra Leone, plans to repatriate Sierra Leonean refugees and transport relief supplies by road should be pursued. Efforts are being made to reopen the border with Sierra Leone.

In Buchanan, UN and NGO missions held discussions with MODEL commanders who welcomed humanitarian agencies. There are an estimated 45,000 IDPs in the town. IDPs reported harassment by militia groups including looting and threats.

In Tubmanburg, Ross Mountain, the Special Humanitarian Coordinator for Liberia, and other senior UN officials toured the area with the LURD Commander last week. The situation there remained precarious. UN officials impressed upon LURD authorities the importance of returning vehicles to humanitarian agencies.

An adviser to the LURD commander requested for a full list of the lost vehicles. In Greater Monrovia and Montserrado, an assessment mission to former - largely empty -- IDP camps in Montserrado County was undertaken over the weekend to assess conditions.

Findings indicate that they are in reasonable condition; the most urgent needs are food, tarpaulins, restoring health services and the rehabilitation of schools. The team also explored possibilities of ECOMIL deployment around these camps to ensure security for returning IDPs who currently thought to be in central Monrovia.” (UN OCHA, 26 August 2003)

“IDP conditions outside of Monrovia. WFP and other NGOs have reported that IDP camps outside of Monrovia and the surrounding area have been inaccessible since June, and the humanitarian situation there is expected to be catastrophic. LURD and MODEL forces occupy approximately 80 percent of the country, and fighting has reportedly continued in some areas, despite the informal truce that has held since August 4.

[...]

Although the decrease in fighting afforded by the troop deployment has stabilized the situation in Monrovia, security remains a basic issue in Liberia. According to U.S. Embassy sources in Monrovia, humanitarian organizations have expressed willingness to provide assistance to affected populations and conduct distributions of relief commodities; however, they are unable to do so without basic security for the area surrounding the White Plains pumping station, the Free Port of Monrovia, and other facilities in greater Monrovia.

According to UN OCHA, looting, rape, intimidation and harassment of residents by both GOL and opposition forces are common.

NGOs report that rape is prevalent and is typically under-reported due to fear of harassment and stigma associated with the victim.

Looting and vandalization of assets and offices have compromised the ability of humanitarian agencies to respond appropriately to the needs of IDPs. More than 30 vehicles belonging to U.N. agencies and NGOs have been looted since fighting between LURD and GOL forces began in June 2003.

According to the USAID/OFDA DART, GOL militia vandalized Merlin's clinic at Newport Street on August 11. Merlin's security guard was beaten and some items were taken, including high-energy biscuits and blood pressure cuffs. Merlin also reported hearing sporadic gunfire near Mamba Point during the night of August 10.” (USAID, 13 August 2003)

“The number and condition of persons in rebel-held areas remains largely unknown. However with their continued lack of access to vital assistance and widespread insecurity, they can be assumed to be in a very vulnerable state.” (UN OCHA, 7 August 2003).

IDPs in Salala camp unreachable because of the fighting (August 2003)

- As of mid August 2003, between 20,000 and 25,000 IDPs in critical need of food and clean water are unreachable by humanitarian agencies
- These IDPs are forced to survive on a diet of leaves and roots

“Around 20,000-25,000 people displaced by fighting in the north of the country have been living in a camp in Salala, 90 minutes drive northeast of Monrovia, since May.

Because of the fighting in and around Monrovia over the last two months, gaining humanitarian access to these people has been very difficult and they are in critical need of food and clean water.

As of the weekend people in the camp had not received any food distributions, and were surviving on a diet of leaves and roots.” (Oxfam, 13 August 2003)

Main international staff evacuated as a consequence of continuous fighting (July 2003)

- WFP international staff evacuated
- WFP operations suspended on 18 July
- However with its national staff WFP is looking for alternative ways to distribute food to Monrovia

“The situation in Monrovia continues to deteriorate and the humanitarian consequences of continued fighting could be catastrophic.

WFP international staff was evacuated, but national staff remained and distributed food to more than 100,000 IDPs, until WFP operations were suspended on 18 July due to the intensity of fighting.

The Freeport of Monrovia, where WFP's office and warehouses are located, remains under the control of Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebels, and WFP is looking into alternative ways to deliver food to Monrovia, in order to prevent the loss of thousands of lives.” (WFP, 31 July 2003)

Relief agencies want peacekeepers to take over control of the port (August 2003)

- Food stocks held in the port are needed by relief agencies to be distributed to some 450,000 starving people in Monrovia

“Relief agencies are desperate for the peacekeepers to take over control of the port so that food stocks held there can be distributed to starving people in government-controlled areas of Monrovia and more can be brought in by sea.

The United Nations has estimated that up to 450,000 people in this ragged city of one million people urgently need food aid.” (IRIN, 7 August 2003)

The resume of fighting in Monrovia has forced ICRC to scale down its humanitarian activities (July 2003)

- Although thousands of IDPs are in more urgent humanitarian assistance, ICRC has been unable to distribute substantial amounts of aid

“Fighting resumed in Monrovia on 19 July, and since then the ICRC has been having great difficulty getting to its vehicles. At the same time, tens of thousands of displaced people are in ever more urgent need of drinking water to avoid epidemics.

The fighting has forced the ICRC to scale down its humanitarian activities. Since 18 July, when it distributed food, drinking water and other basic necessities to some 50,000 displaced people, the organization has generally been unable to distribute substantial amounts of aid.

It did, however, take advantage of a brief lull in the fighting on 24 July to distribute 40,000 litres of drinking water - 14,000 litres to displaced people gathered in Samuel K. Doe football stadium, and the rest to people living at three other makeshift sites in Monrovia.” (ICRC, 31 July 2003)

Fuel shortage and looting are obstacles to the distribution of water to IDPs (July 2003)

- Skyrocketing cost of fuel makes water distribution more difficult
- Shortage of trucks, due in part to looting hindered water distribution

“More importantly, the skyrocketing cost of fuel makes water distribution even more difficult for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) trying to aid hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The NGO Merlin says with the current fuel shortage in Monrovia, it may be forced to begin flying fuel into the country to continue water supply to people in desperate need. Water distribution is also hindered by a shortage of trucks, due in part to looting.

The international NGO OXFAM's capacity has been significantly undermined by the looting spree, but it is still supplying water to some 9,000 IDPs in Monrovia.” (UN OCHA, 31 July 2003)

Humanitarian agencies have little or no access to IDP and refugee camps cut off by the fighting (since February 2003)

- United Nations aid agencies fear the supplies they have will not be enough to meet growing needs for IDPs (April 2003)
- Western Liberia cut off due to heavy fighting (February-April 2003)
- The government wants to relocate Risks IDP
- IDP camps are overcrowded

“Following the attack on Ricks IDP camp, the government has requested that the estimated 150,000 IDPs and about 17,000 Sierra Leonean Refugees housed in camps in the Po river and Virginia area be relocated. The government's preferred location is along the Roberts International Airport Highway. Faced with this new challenge that has serious resource and security implications, the humanitarian community remains skeptical especially as the proposed new location is in close proximity to a government military installation.” (UN OCHA, 5 April 2003)

“Thursday morning's attack on Zwedru (Grand Gedeh county) has left the entire eastern region bordering Ivory Coast out of reach of aid. Médecins Sans Frontières' (MSF) two expatriate volunteers working in the Zwedru transit camp did manage, with difficulty, to leave the combat zone but we have not had any news from the 28 members of the Liberian team. This attack follows the attack a few weeks ago on Toe Town, around 100 kilometers (62 miles) from Zwedru, which had already led to suspension of aid in the Grand Gedeh region.

In Nimba County, further north, an offensive on Ganta town launched Saturday morning, has forced several thousands to flee, especially towards Guinea-Conakry. On our part, we have been forced to reduce our presence in the Saclepea refugee camp. The protection of and assistance to these populations can no longer be guaranteed.

Nearly 75,000 refugees are living in the region bordering Ivory Coast. Today, they, like the local population, are cut off from necessary assistance and protection.

In central Liberia's Bong county, new offensives forced some 30,000 people to flee as fighting approached the outskirts of Monrovia, the capital city. Last Friday, in the wake of the fighting, MSF decided to reduce its teams in the field while continuing its activities in the Bong county displaced persons camp.

MSF is preparing to receive new arrivals there and in the Montserrado camps, where nearly 50,000 displaced persons are today caught between the front line and the capital. The surgical team working in Redemption Hospital has also continued its activities.” (Médecins Sans Frontières, 1 April 2003)

“Poor security, and the resulting fluid movements of vulnerable populations it causes, also leaves humanitarian workers unable to reach people in need in the most affected areas. Emergency interventions have become more difficult, and planned health care initiatives like vaccinations against measles have been postponed. Where access is possible - mainly near Monrovia - humanitarian agencies are running low on supplies. Shortages have also prompted the World Food Programme ([WFP](#)) to reduce its April and May food rations. Aid agencies fear supply shortfalls will soon become worse because programmes for food, shelter, emergency health, and human rights protection have not received any contributions. (UN, April 2003)

“Humanitarian crises in the West African region continue to mount in the aftermath of Côte d'Ivoire's five-month civil war as the United Nations reported today that intensified fighting in western Liberia has cut-off humanitarian access to huge numbers of displaced people.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) the displaced - mostly women and children fleeing ahead of fresh clashes in the area - continue to stream into camps in and around Monrovia, Liberia's capital.

With access to humanitarian staff and goods cut-off, aid agencies already in these camps have been left to deal with the influx. As of last Wednesday, they have recorded a total of 5,881 persons arriving from Dewoin district in Tubmanburg, Mecca/Suehn and villages across the Po river. The numbers are increasing, OCHA said.

Sierra Leonean refugees and Liberian displaced persons sheltering outside the capital, meanwhile, have fled the camps in which they were staying.

Militias are reportedly harassing and robbing the fleeing populations of their valuables. Arriving displaced mothers are also reporting missing children. Meanwhile, OCHA says that rebels, in retreat, have reportedly abducted a number of persons from Cheesemanburg.

Teams led by representatives of non-governmental organizations and aid agencies in the camps are continuing to register new arrivals and provide them with food and non-food items, as well as health care, and family tracing services.” (UN News Services, 7 February 2003)

Government refuses to allow aid agencies beyond Klay Junction (January 2002)

- Relief agencies are allowed back to Klay Town, 47km from Monrovia, but no further
- IDPs in Klay Town reported to need food, water and shelter
- Government wants to avoid thousands of IDPs entering Monrovia

"Relief agencies have returned to Klay Town, north of the Liberian capital, Monrovia, to help thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing fighting between anti-government forces and the army some 35-50 km farther north, a UN humanitarian worker told IRIN on Thursday. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) returned on Wednesday to Klay Town, some 47 km north of Monrovia, Mohammed Siryon, national field officer for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Liberia, said. After getting permission from the Justice Ministry to go to Klay, at least 10 groups are now in the

town providing aid, Siryon said. He said the ministry had told the NGOs they could not travel north of Klay.

Groups present in Klay include Medecins sans Frontieres, which is providing water, and the International Committee of the Red Cross, which is providing sanitation services. Save the Children's Fund is giving aid to children and minimal health services, while the Lutheran World Service is putting up large transit tents. Siryon said the World Food Programme was sending a food assessment team to Klay: on Sunday the IDPs there did not have sufficient food, water and shelter.

Some 1,500 people lived in Klay Town before the influx of IDPs, who fled their temporary camp at Sawmill on Sunday when anti-government forces entered it and ordered them to leave. 'They fled with what they had on,' Siryon said.

He said some 50 troops from the government's Joint Security Command were manning a checkpoint at Klay Junction, an important crossroads about one km south of the town. One of the roads at this junction leads to Sierra Leone and the other to Tubmanburg, capital of Bomi County, where government troops are deployed.

'The government wants the IDPs to stay in Klay Town until Tubmanburg is secure,' Siryon said.

Humanitarian workers said the government did not want thousands of IDPs heading into Monrovia, where many victims of earlier displacements still squat in unfinished and war-damaged buildings." (IRIN, 31 January 2002)

Institutional arrangements

An agreement reached to allow the resumption of the humanitarian aid (August 2003)

- In mid August Rebel agreed to hand over the strategic port of Monrovia to international peacekeeping forces
- The agreement should allow rapid resumption of humanitarian aid

"Rebels in Liberia have agreed to hand over the strategic port of Monrovia to international peacekeeping forces by midday (1200 GMT) on Thursday as part of a deal that will see both government and rebel fighters withdraw from the beleaguered city.

The agreement, which should allow a rapid resumption of humanitarian aid to Monrovia's one million inhabitants, was struck on Tuesday at talks between representatives of the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) rebel movement and US and Nigerian military commanders.

"We've just concluded discussions of a deal with LURD that will give permissive entry of peacekeepers into this area...that includes the Freeport," US ambassador John Blaney told reporters after the meeting at LURD's command post on Bushrod Island where the port is situated.

Sekou Fofana, a member of LURD's National Executive Committee, said: "We are not leaving a man behind. All of us will pack up and leave for headquarters." (IRIN, 12 August 2003)

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

General

Stronger coordination needed to ensure concerted action on behalf of IDPs, reports OCHA IDP Unit (May 2002)

- The long absence of a Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) in Liberia had a negative impact on overall IDP response, reports the OCHA IDP Unit
- With OCHA support, a new HC introduced new coordination mechanisms aimed at ensuring concerted action on behalf of IDPs
- In sectors such as protection and camp management, coordination must still be improved, says the Unit

"Due to a long absence of an HC, coordination mechanisms disintegrated leading to a piece-meal approach by the agencies with at times, widely diverging views among them on the appropriate responses to IDP needs. The recent arrival of a new HC has raised hopes of a revitalized collaborative approach, which together with a reinforced OCHA presence will enhance inter-agency cooperation.

With the support of OCHA, the HC has introduced new coordination mechanisms involving the UN, NGOs and Government departments with a view to ensuring concerted action on behalf of IDPs. In this connection, the strengthening of OCHA should be further pursued to ensure the provision of accurate and timely information on IDP needs and projects. OCHA/Sierra Leone's expertise in this area should be shared with the Liberia office.

NGOs have maintained practical coordination arrangements among themselves and with some UN agencies at the sectoral level based on expertise and capacity. However, sector coordination meetings could be more action-oriented and not limited to information sharing. Furthermore, coordination in other sectors or on cross-sectoral themes needs to be re-activated or established, notably on protection and camp management." (OCHA IDP Unit, 21 May 2002)

No agency with an exclusive mandate for the internally displaced has meant insufficient and irregular aid during period of national recovery (1996-1998)

- Without a specific agency tasked to care for displaced persons, assistance has been less than satisfactory
- Responsibility for caring for internally displaced often fell, by default, on the UN

"[T]here appeared to be little or no preparation at the national or international level to plan for the return of this huge population to their homes'. Even information on the numbers and location of the internally displaced was much more scarce than on refugees, because no national or international body has had the exclusive task of addressing the needs of the internally displaced. As a result, conditions for the internally displaced remained much worse than those of Liberian refugees in neighbouring countries." (Nowrojee 1998, pp. 42-44)

"As with internally displaced populations in many parts of the world, most of Liberia's IDPs are, unfortunately, very much on their own. UNHCR has been in the country to help refugees and to map plans for a long-awaited return of those who fled the country. But funding even these mandate activities is difficult, particularly in view of the renewed violence in Monrovia in April (1996), which resulted in the looting of many aid agency offices – UNHCR included – and the evacuations of some staff members. 'No international humanitarian agency has a specific mandate to care for displaced persons,' explained Kalumiya, UNHCR's representative in Liberia." (Kpatindé 1996, "Internally Displaced Persons", para. 13)

"Many of the dilemmas of meeting the needs of the displaced fell, often by default, into the UN system where political, security, and humanitarian concerns intersect . . . There was no agency specifically responsible for the welfare of the internally displaced." (Scott 1998, p. 120)

National response

Government capacity to fulfil its IDP protection responsibilities has 'serious shortcomings' (2002)

- Government bodies responsible for protection and for camp management and relief coordination lack necessary IDP expertise and resources
- Vital collaboration between humanitarian agencies and the government has at times been less than smooth
- OCHA IDP Unit proposed, in May 2002, that a protection expert be deployed to assist the UN Country Team in the elaboration of a protection framework
- Deficiencies in camp management must also be addressed

"IDP protection falls under the overall responsibility of the Ministry of Justice, and the LRRRC oversees the management of camps and coordination of relief. However, the LRRRC and the Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Justice lack the necessary IDP expertise and resources to discharge their respective functions. Serious shortcomings in the capacity of the Government to fulfil its protection responsibility have been reported, not the least in conjunction with the recent findings related to practices of sexual exploitation and abuse of refugee and IDP girls in camps.

In this context, the complementary role of humanitarian actors in support of IDPs becomes a necessity of vital importance for the well-being of IDPs. However, collaboration between humanitarian agencies and the Government has not always been as smooth as desirable. There is therefore a need to engage the Government in an open dialogue with a view to jointly developing an accountability system in which the roles and responsibilities of all concerned actors are clearly designated. Support to government institutions could then be linked to the respect of mutually-agreed operational standards based on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

In the framework of the CAP mid-term review and in light of changed circumstances, the Country Team is undertaking a thorough review of the Humanitarian Action Plan and formulating a revised strategy with a prominent focus on IDP/refugee protection and the provision of basic relief. The revised strategy will integrate the results of the work of the Task Force against sexual exploitation and abuse, including its draft plan of action. The reactivation of a protection committee co-chaired by the HC and the Government, comprising the Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Justice, the LRRRC and agencies with protection/human rights expertise such as ICRC, HCR and UNICEF could provide an appropriate forum for enhanced coordination and concerted action.

As part of this process of revitalizing protection, the mission proposed that an IDP protection expert be urgently deployed to the operation to help the Country Team in the elaboration of a protection framework setting out common protection standards and indicators to guide the implementation of assistance in the various programmatic sectors, and advise the HC on adequate arrangements/ division of responsibility on protection within the Country Team. Such a mission fielded initially for a 4week period could be subsequently strengthened by a protection officer. Joint responsibility through reinforced international presence in camps and a common monitoring and reporting system are key elements in the effort of revitalizing protection activities. Some agencies, such as ICRC are already taking steps to increase their protection capacity through the deployment of specialized staff. It would also be appropriate to organize a workshop on the Guiding Principles, this time to be addressed primarily to the Country Team, as a complement to the training conducted by NRC last year.

Deficiencies in camp management were also reported to the Mission. The lack of transparencies in the overall management, including in the registration of families and allocation of lots for shelter were mentioned as examples to illustrate this gap. The system put in place by NRC in Porto Loko IDP camp in Sierra Leone as well as the camp management committee functioning in that country are two experiences worth analyzing for their eventual implementation in Liberia. Whilst the NRC system implies the direct involvement in camp management of an international NGO, in the current Liberia model an international NGO is designated as camp lead agency without management responsibility. Camp management in Liberia is entrusted to a local team under the overall supervision of the LRRRC. Direct assignment of camp management to an international NGO would likely improve the delivery of protection and assistance to IDPs.

Given the acute levels of poverty among vast segments of the population and the risk of creating tensions between IDPs and the local neighbors if the former were perceived as being privileged, the IDP program should promote greater self-reliance. Needy residents of communities where IDP camps are located should also benefit from basic camp services such as health, sanitation and education." (OCHA IDP Unit, 21 May 2002)

National Humanitarian Task Force established to assist IDPs (2002)

"The National Humanitarian Task Force, recently constituted by President Taylor, has begun distributing relief items to internally displaced persons around the country. The Task Force, led by the Liberian First Lady, distributed 125 metric tons of rice to over 34,000 IDPs in four camps around Monrovia. According to a post distribution report, signed by the First Lady, the IDPs also received 9,700 packages of assorted used clothing. Future distributions are expected in Sinje and Kakata." (UN OCHA, 7 March 2002)

Liberia Refugee, Repatriation, and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) is national agency responsible for return of internally displaced persons (1998-2001)

- LRRRC has full responsibility to select a safe settlement for internally displaced persons
- LRRRC plays lead role in coordination of humanitarian assistance for IDPs
- LRRRC has limited technical, financial and logistical capacity
- LRRRC has had trouble with funding in the past and has been helped by UNDP and IFRC

"The Liberia Refugee, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), has limited human, technical, financial and logistical capacity. The LRRRC administrative structure at camp level has a narrow span of control with many layers headed by a regional coordinator, followed by camp supervisors and camp monitors. This arrangement does not permit timely information flow, quick decision making and sometimes impedes efficient delivery of humanitarian assistance. There is urgent need for institutional capacity

building for LRRRC, particularly in policy development for population movement, data collection and analysis, and effective management." (UN November 2001)

"The Liberian Government, through its designated agency, the Liberia Refugee Repatriation & Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) has full responsibility to select a safe settlement for internally displaced persons. The selection shall begin with a multi-sectoral assessment, which shall involve other stakeholders including UN Agencies, Donors, NGOs, INGOs, other agencies of the Liberian Government, the local authority and representatives of the affected population, including women.

The selection shall be based on the initial assessment. The criteria for site selection and camp development shall be in line with the minimum standard as provided for in the Sphere Guidelines (Minimum Standards for Disaster Response). However, the LRRRC in collaboration with other stakeholders may develop standards for camp development that befit the prevailing reality. Details of the standards can be found in the sectoral guidelines attached in the Annex." (LRRRC as included in NRC Training Report,, NRC October 2001)

"The Liberia Refugee, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) plays a lead role in the coordination of humanitarian assistance to IDPs. The 46,000 IDPs are currently not receiving any assistance as no detailed needs assessment has been conducted due to insecurity in the area." (UN November 2000)

"The LRRRC's programme officer, James Youquoi, said although the United Nations did not have a specific mandate on IDPs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 'has consistently assisted' his commission in getting funds. The International Federation of the Red Cross, the British Red Cross and SIDA, the Swedish aid agency, have also helped, he said.

With this aid, the LRRRC has been able to relocate 126,243 IDPs since 1998. Youquoi said 300 more were registered for transportation to the southeastern counties of Grand Gedeh, Sinoe and Maryland, but there was no money for the operation.

[...]

Each individual gets one 10 X 16-foot (3 X 4.8-metre) sheet of plastic, two cutlasses, one hoe, one kilogramme of nails, twine and a bag of laundry soap. The Liberian Red Cross provides footwear and used clothing.

[...]

The LRRRC is still looking for aid for the IDPs and needs between US\$1 million to \$1.5 million to strengthen its capacity for intervention. It needs communications to link its regional offices to each other and to headquarters so that coordination can be possible but money has not been forthcoming from the cash-strapped government." (IRIN-WA 20 July 2000)

Regional response

A Nigerian-led West African peacekeeping force ECOMIL in Monrovia to enforce the ceasefire (September 2003)

- Crowds of cheering Liberians welcome the West African peacekeepers in Monrovia
- The force is supposed to extend its control from Monrovia to the rebel-held port of Buchanan
- The force is due to receive mandate from the UN in October which will bring more peacekeepers from other parts of the world

“Crowds of cheering Liberians lined the roadside in pouring rain on Monday to welcome a convoy of military trucks ferrying 150 Gambian peacekeeping troops from Roberts international airport into the capital Monrovia.

The Gambians were the latest West African soldiers to arrive to reinforce 1,550 Nigerian troops who have been trying to enforce a ceasefire between the government and two rebel movements since August 4.

Last week, 250 soldiers from Mali and 250 from Senegal flew in, giving the multinational force the potential to extend its control from Monrovia to the rebel-held port of Buchanan, 120 km to the southeast, and Kakata, 45 km north of the capital.

Exploratory patrols have already been sent to both towns and military sources said the peacekeepers would establish a permanent presence in both very soon.

Major Ogun Sanya, a spokesman for the West African peacekeeping force, said on Tuesday that more troops from Benin, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau and Togo were expected in the coming days.

“We are expecting Guinea-Bissau anytime from today,” he told IRIN.

The West African force, known as ECOMIL, will eventually number 3,250 men. It is due to receive a UN mandate in October, after which thousands more peacekeeping troops from other parts of the world are expected to arrive.

Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo said during a brief visit to Liberia on Monday that at least 15,000 more soldiers were needed to ensure a lasting peace after 14 years of near constant civil war.

Jacques Klein, the UN special envoy to Liberia, has also called for a force of this size.

ECOMIL began to deploy in Monrovia shortly before former Liberian president Charles Taylor stepped down and left for exile in Nigeria on 11 August.

[...]

Urging the international community to send more peacekeepers to Liberia, Obasanjo said on Monday: “We have to ensure that the peacekeeping force, which the West African sub-region has provided and which is grossly inadequate, will be beefed up by the international community so that that peace will reign.”

Obasanjo, a former army general who was elected president of Nigeria in 1999, told his men they would remain in Liberia until a sustainable peace is achieved.

[...]

Nigeria contributed more than 7,000 troops to the first West African peacekeeping force in Liberia that remained in the country from 1990 to 1998. It enabled elections to be held in 1997 that were won by Taylor with 80 percent of the vote. However the civil war resumed soon after the peacekeepers withdrew.

Obasanjo was wildly cheered by crowds of enthusiastic Liberians as he walked the streets of Monrovia, a devastated city of more than one million people.

Blah, who will hand over power to a broad-based transitional government on 14 October, told the Nigerian leader that he was disheartened by the continuation of sporadic clashes between government and rebel fighters in the interior.” (IRIN, 2 September 2003)

Various regional peace initiatives try to tackle Liberia's crisis (2002-2003)

- ECOWAS continues to put forward peace proposals for Liberia, while President Taylor is seen to be increasing isolated (March 2003)
- Presidents of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea first meet in Morocco in February to discuss cross-border security
- Meeting is hailed as turning point for West African stability - but fighting in Liberia continues
- Weeks later, the Liberian government rejects ECOWAS call for an immediate ceasefire - while continuing to accuse Guinea of supporting the rebels in Liberia
- Peace talks convened in Burkina Faso in July by Liberian opposition politicians and civil organisations are seen as futile due to absence of the Liberian government
- In July 2002, a month-long national reconciliation conference is convened by the government in Monrovia - but the opposition stays away

“A five-member regional delegation of the ECOWAS Parliament headed by Mr. Alioum Nouhoum Diallo of Mali, in consultation, urged President Taylor to accept recommendations of the February 28 meeting of the International Contact Group on Liberia that was held at the UN headquarters in New York. Prominent among the decisions was an immediate negotiation of an unconditional ceasefire between LURD and the Government with a possible UN Security Council involvement in monitoring such ceasefire and that Mali be accepted as mediator on behalf of ECOWAS. The Contact Group also recommended security, a process of national reconciliation, respect for Human rights and electoral reform, as conditions necessary for the holding of free and fair elections in Liberia. In response, President Taylor urged that the ICGL worked along with ECOWAS that has the mandate to restore peace to Liberia.

Meanwhile, a peace meeting of all stakeholders is schedule to convene in Bamako, Mali prior to which the ECOWAS Parliamentary delegation would present a report of its sub-regional peace mission to President, John Kuffor, Chairman of ECOWAS.” (UN OCHA, 15 March 2003)

"The presidents of Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone agreed Wednesday to work together to put an end to years of cross-border insurgencies at a summit billed as a turning point for West African stability.

Liberian President Charles Taylor and his counterparts Ahmad Tejan Kabbah of Sierra Leone and Guinea's Lansana Conte rapidly agreed to the wording of a draft communique calling for an end to hostilities, Sierra Leone's Foreign Minister Ramadan Dumbuya said as the summit got underway.

The text also calls for the three countries, which all border the Mayo (sic) river, to end all interference in the internal affairs of their neighbours, and for a follow-up mechanism to be put in place to ensure that commitment is upheld.

The Rabat summit began as rebel forces, which Liberia claims are backed by Guinea, were reportedly closing in on the Liberian capital Monrovia.

The rebel Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), which has bases in neighbouring Guinea, is leading the insurgency in northern Liberia and extended its fight to Monrovia's doorstep, prompting Taylor to declare a state of emergency on February 8.

Cross-border attacks in southern Guinea at the border with Liberia and Sierra Leone have flared since late 2000 but Taylor had, up until a few months ago, refused to meet with Conte, whom he held responsible for the instability in west Africa.

Relations are particularly strained between Guinea and Liberia which have accused each other of backing rebels trying to topple their respective regimes.

For its part, Sierra Leone has accused Liberia of backing rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) during its 10-year rebellion against the Freetown government which ended only last May.

The United Nations imposed sanctions on Liberia for backing the RUF, but Monrovia argues that, with the war in Sierra Leone officially over, the embargo should be lifted.

Sources in Rabat said the three leaders hoped to reach an agreement that would bar rebels from neighboring states from using their respective territories." (AFP, 27 February 2002)

"The Liberian government has rejected the call by the West African states' economic community (ECOWAS) for an immediate ceasefire between government troops and armed opposition fighters, saying this would give the rebels an opportunity to re-group.

The government was 'baffled' by the call which suggested a parity between the government and the armed opposition fighters, Information Minister Reginald Goodridge, was reported by news agencies as saying, on Tuesday.

Liberia, was however, interested in a regional intervention force, as suggested by ECOWAS chairman, President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal on Friday, the minister added.

'Calling for a ceasefire at a time when the Liberian government has already broken the back of a very large attack in Gbarnga, in Arthington and in Klay, will only give the terrorists the opportunity to regroup and attack Liberia,' BBC quoted Goodridge as saying.

The minister urged the West African nations to instead address neighbouring 'Guinea's support' to the opposition fighters. 'We do know that it's the policy of most democratic governments in the world not to negotiate with terrorists,' he said.

Wade had said ECOWAS members would consider creating a peacekeeping force to intervene in Liberia if negotiations between the government and rebels failed. But ECOWAS first wanted an immediate ceasefire, he told a news conference in Cote d'Ivoire's capital, Yamoussoukro.

At least 70,000 internally displaced people and their host communities in the Liberian town of Gbarnga, 224 km north of the capital, Monrovia, fled fighting between government troops and armed opposition fighters last week, an inter-agency assessment mission reported on Thursday.

Several towns that the armed opposition fighters of Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) claimed to have taken last week, were regained by government troops." (IRIN, 21 May 2002)

"A military team from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on Wednesday met Liberian President Charles Taylor to discuss plans for peace talks to stop the ongoing civil war, a diplomatic source told IRIN.

Taylor however reportedly told the team, led by Nigerian Colonel James Oladipo, that his government was at the moment interested in the Rabat initiative brokered in February by King Mohammed VI of Morocco. The initiative involved the presidents of Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, news agencies reported.

The Rabat meeting is due to be reviewed by the presidents on 20 June, the source said. The first meeting called for deployment of troops along the common borders to prevent cross-border incursions.

Continuing fighting between Liberian forces and rebels of the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) was reported in Bong and Tubmanburg counties this week." (IRIN, 13 June 2002)

"A three-day conference aimed at bringing peace to war-torn Liberia opened in Burkina Faso on Monday but the chances of a breakthrough were almost zero because of the absence of the Liberian government.

The Liberian government told AFP it had not been invited to the peace talks and said they were a non-event.

Although the rebel Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) group had earlier said it would boycott the conference, it was represented at the talks in the Burkina Faso capital, Ouagadougou, organisers said.

[...]

The peace talks are sponsored by prominent Liberian politicians living in exile, such as former interim president Amos Sawyer and Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, who was runner-up to President Charles Taylor in the last elections.

Representatives of nine political parties and five civil organisations are represented at the conference, which is being funded by the George Soros Foundation and the Burkina Faso government.

[...]

Monday's meeting follows two conferences on Liberia this year sponsored by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), one in the Nigerian capital Abuja, the other in Ivory Coast's political capital Yamoussoukro.

The Yamoussoukro meeting ended with the ECOWAS proposing a ceasefire or negotiations between the government and the rebels.

Taylor's regime rejected it on the grounds that these would 'legitimise' the LURD." (AFP, 8 July 2002)

"A national reconciliation conference opened on Saturday in the Liberian capital, Monrovia, with President Charles Taylor urging opposition leaders abroad to return home. 'Nothing, absolutely nothing, will be done to them,' sources quoted him as saying.

However, Taylor's opponents stayed away from the month-long conference, including the rebel Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), which issued a statement on Monday vowing to continue its armed struggle against forces loyal to the Liberian president.

'We are at the moment close to retaking the provincial city-town of Tubmanburg,' LURD said on Monday in a statement. 'Our forces will not only aim at retaking Tubmanburg, but do all to conclude the war very soon by hitting Monrovia and calling for a government of national consensus.' " (IRIN, 30 July 2002)

"While President Charles Taylor sits increasingly isolated in Monrovia, momentum is building behind peace proposals drawn up by Taylor opponents, regional analysts and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

ECOWAS, the regional body overseeing the peace process, hopes to convene a meeting of a proposed contact group on Liberia on the sidelines of a discussion of the New Partnership for Africa's Development at the U.N. General Assembly in New York on September 16.

The group is made up of the United States, France, Britain, Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Senegal, and would oversee a ceasefire, disarmament and deployment of an international stabilisation force.

Taylor's foes hope that the international community will not want to see its efforts to bring peace to Sierra Leone wasted by a new flare-up of the region's conflict, which began when Taylor invaded Liberia from Ivory Coast in December 1989 and spread to Sierra Leone and Guinea." (AlertNet, 12 September 2002)

International political response

The International Contact Group on Liberia convened a meeting between all parties in the Liberian conflict

- Liberian President Charles Taylor said on Wednesday he would attend peace talks with rebel movements to be convened by the International Contact Group on Liberia in Accra, Ghana, on 2 June

“However, government and diplomatic sources in the Liberian capital Monrovia said the main rebel movement, Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), had objected to the venue. The sources said LURD was worried about the security of its delegates in Accra and wanted the venue to be switched to the Senegalese capital Dakar instead.

Taylor said in a statement that he would be flexible and would do everything possible for the sake of peace to make the talks successful. He promised to be in Accra for their launch.

The ICGL, which comprises the United States, the UK, France, Morocco, Nigeria, Ghana, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union and the United Nations, proposed June 2 for the start of talks in Accra at a meeting in Brussels on Monday.

The contact group said in a statement on Wednesday that the talks would bring together the government, LURD and civic organisations. It said they should focus on arranging a ceasefire, lasting peace, security, respect for human rights, the rule of law, electoral reform and a process of national reconciliation.

The ICGL expressed "deep concern over the persistent conflict in Liberia," saying it "remains a threat to the peace and stability of the entire region." It urged the Liberian government and LURD and its recent offshoot, the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL), to cease all hostilities and enter into "immediate and unconditional dialogue".

The contact group strongly urged all sides in the Liberian conflict to accept the peace mediator designated by ECOWAS, former Nigerian leader General Abdulsalami Abubakar.

But the group warned that it would only support the deployment of an international peacekeeping force in Liberia if there was "concrete progress" at the Accra talks." (IRIN, 14 May 2003)

UN Security Council renews two-year-old sanctions against Government of Liberia for its support of RUF in Sierra Leone and places 10 month ban on import of liberian timber (2001-2003)

- The Council decided that all States should take the necessary measures to prevent, for a period of 10 months starting on 7 July, the import of all round logs and timber products originating in Liberia.
- UN sanctions instituted from May 2001 for Government of Liberia's support of RUF rebels in Sierra Leone

- Sanctions seek to block all diamond sales by Liberia, restrict international travel of Liberian officials and sustain arms embargo against Liberia
- Sanctions are targeted; however, the standard of living for Liberians has further deteriorated as a result
- In 2003, UN sanctions on Liberia are extended for 12 months, until May 2004
- Reason for the extension is the Liberian government's failure to fully comply with demands to stop support for armed rebel groups in the region, particularly the RUF in neighbouring Sierra Leone

"The UN Security Council voted in March 2001 to impose sanctions on Liberia in retaliation for the government's support for rebels in neighboring Sierra Leone. The UN sanctions, which took effect in May, seek to block all diamond sales by Liberia, restrict international travel by top Liberian officials, and sustain the arms embargo against Liberia." (USCR, August 2001)

"Liberia is increasingly feeling the bite of UN sanctions imposed exactly six months ago for Monrovia's perceived support for Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebel group.

On May 7, the UN Security Council imposed a slew of sanctions -- which include tight travel restrictions on Liberian leaders, other key officials and some businessmen, a diamond export ban and an ongoing arms embargo -- for Liberia's alleged backing to the RUF.

President Charles Taylor has repeatedly slammed the sanctions as the work of 'neo-colonial powers' and has denied trading in the so-called 'conflict diamonds' mined by the RUF in return for arms.

Although Taylor says the west African country will tide over the present hard times, Liberia -- which has already suffered from a seven-year-old civil war -- is facing the pinch.

Since May, major foreign exchange earners such as the Bong Mines, the LAMCO iron ore company and the Union Glass factory remain closed with no signs of being revived.

Major rubber concessions like Firestone, LAC and Guthrie are operating at less than half their capacities. Unemployment is currently pegged at an alarming 85 percent and rising and foreign investors have adopted a wait-and see attitude.

The government owes civil servants salary arrears ranging from four to seven months. And the Liberian dollar has dropped sharply against the greenback from 40 in May to 52 at present.

At one point it had risen to 62 to the dollar and a further fall was stemmed by intervention from the Central Bank of Liberia." (AFP, 7 November 2001)

"The political and economic situation of the country has been aggravated by the imposition of UN Security Council sanctions (Resolution 1343 [2001]) against the Government of Liberia for supporting armed rebel groups, in particular, its support of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Sierra Leone, and for its role in the illicit diamond trade. While these sanctions are targeted in scope, there are concerns that they may have far-reaching socio-economic and humanitarian implications. The standard of living amongst the most vulnerable Liberians has further deteriorated; inflation has become prevalent, while basic goods and services are either lacking or not affordable for the average Liberians." (UN, November 2001)

"The Security Council [...] extended existing sanctions against Liberia until 7 May 2004, and added a 10-month ban on the import of its timber.

Unanimously adopting resolution 1478 (2003), and acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the Council decided that the Government of Liberia had not fully complied with its demand to immediately cease support for the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Sierra Leone and for other armed rebel groups in the region, as stipulated in [resolution 1343](#) adopted on 7 March 2001.

The Council also decided that the measures it took would be terminated immediately if the Council, based on information received from various sources, including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), determined Liberia's Government had complied with its demand.

Existing sanctions consist of a weapons embargo, measures against the export of its rough diamonds and travel restrictions on senior government members, according to resolution 1343 (2001). The Council stressed its readiness, however, to grant exemptions from travel restrictions in cases of travel which would assist in the peaceful resolution of the conflict in the subregion.

The Council further decided that all States should take the necessary measures to prevent, for a period of 10 months starting on 7 July, the import of all round logs and timber products originating in Liberia. By 7 September, the Council intends to consider how best to minimize any humanitarian or socio-economic impact of that measure, including the possibility of allowing timber exports to resume in order to fund humanitarian programmes.

Reiterating its call upon the Liberian Government to establish an effective Certificate of Origin for its diamonds, the Council decided that rough diamonds controlled through such a Certificate of Origin regime would be exempt from the export prohibition.

The Council also reiterated its demand that all States in the region cease military support for armed groups in neighbouring countries and refrain from any actions that might contribute to further destabilization of the situation in the region. It declared its readiness to consider ways of promoting compliance with that demand.

Further to the text, the Council requested the Secretary-General to establish, within three months, for a period of five months a Panel of Experts to conduct a follow-up assessment mission to Liberia and neighbouring States in order to investigate Liberia's compliance with Council demands, to review the Government's budgetary system, and to examine the role of the timber industry in embargo violations.” (UN Security Council, 6 May 2003)

See the following original documents for further information about sanctions in Liberia:

- a.) Report of the Secretary-General in pursuance of paragraph 13 (a) of resolution 1343 (2001) concerning Liberia dated 5 October 2001 [\[External link\]](#);*
- b.) Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 13 (b) of Security Council resolution 1343 (2001) concerning Liberia (S/2001/965) dated 11 October 2001 [\[External link\]](#);*
- c.) Second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 of Security Council resolution 1343 (2001) regarding Liberia dated 31 October 2001 [\[External link\]](#);*
- d.) Letter from Liberia to the UN Secretary General dated 1 November 2001 [\[External link\]](#).*

For analysis of Liberia's internal and external prospects for peace and stability, see the April 2002 report by the International Crisis Group (ICG), 'Liberia: The key to ending regional instability' [\[External link\]](#)

- e.) Second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1408 (2002) regarding Liberia [\[http://ods-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N03/329/53/IMG/N0332953.pdf?OpenElement\]](http://ods-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N03/329/53/IMG/N0332953.pdf?OpenElement)*

f.) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Liberia, pursuant to the letter dated 29 November 2002 (S/2002/1305) from the President of the Security Council [<http://ods-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N03/254/80/PDF/N0325480.pdf?OpenElement>]

Carter Center closes at end of 2000

- Former US President Jimmy Carter cites "prevailing conditions" in Liberia and the actions of the Liberian government as reasons that Center can no longer continue its human rights and democracy work

"The US-based Carter Center has closed its office in Liberia, where it worked for a decade to promote human rights and democracy through local nongovernmental organisations and other groups.

Former US President Jimmy Carter said in a letter to President Charles Taylor that 'prevailing conditions and the actions of your government have made it increasingly difficult for the center and others to be effective in supporting democracy, human rights and the rule of law'.

'Much to our dismay, Liberia is a country where reports of serious human rights abuses are common, where journalists, human rights organisations and political activists work in an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, and where there is little political space for meaningful democratic debate,' Carter said." (IRIN-WA 10 November 2000)

Donor response

The UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Liberia 2003 was revised and launched on 6 August 2003 (August 2003)

- The current situation in Monrovia now reflects the worst-case scenario from the 2003 Consolidated Appeal (CAP).
- In light of the critical humanitarian situation, the 2003 CAP has been revised to reflect the priority needs of Liberia today

"The Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Liberia 2003 was launched on 6 August 2003 in both Geneva and in New York. The appeal is seeking US\$69 million to urgently respond to the humanitarian needs of the Liberians.

The UN Country Team led by the Humanitarian Coordinator also traveled to Monrovia on 6 August 2003 to make contact with the Commander of the peacekeeping Contingent on the ground. Their objective was to make initial contact and to discuss how the UN will be supported to carry out their humanitarian work.

[...]

In light of the critical humanitarian situation, the 2003 CAP has been revised to reflect the priority needs of Liberia today. Key material and human resources are urgently required by humanitarian agencies to meet the needs of an increased number of destitute persons now dependent on external humanitarian assistance for their survival.

New projects (water trucking, health promotion and reintegration of former child combatants) have been added to respond to the increase in humanitarian needs of IDPs and host populations affected by the armed conflict in Monrovia. Requirements have been linked to specific operational phases that are closely tied to the prevailing security situation.

The revision includes outstanding requirements from the 2003 CAP with additional needs resulting from the ongoing fighting. Resource requirements are based on a need to cater for an estimated 200,000 families or 1,000,000 persons during the period July to December 2003. A summary of new, revised and un-revised projects is presented in Annex I at the end of the document.

The humanitarian community launched the 2003 CAP in November 2002. To date, excluding the food aid sector, less than 22% of the requested US\$ 25,317,715 has been funded (refer to Annex I)." (UN OCHA, 7 August 2003).

For more information please consult the following link:
<http://www.reliefweb.int/appeals/2003/files/lib03rev.pdf>

"The Revised Humanitarian [Appeal](#) seeks to fully fund agency activities in the country through the end of this year, seeking to reach 1 million Liberians in greatest need, and lays out a plan to reduce malnutrition, restore supplies of clean water, provide basic shelter and health care, stem the spread of lethal diseases such as cholera, and protect fundamental human rights. It provides for additional needs caused by recent hostilities, as well as outstanding requirements of the original Appeal launched in November 2002. With the exception of food aid, less than 22 per cent of the original has been received." (UN OCHA, 6 August 2003).

"The revised appeal includes new projects and revisions of existing projects to cover additional needs caused by the outbreak of hostilities in June as well as the outstanding requirements from the 2003 CAP. The Revised Appeal aims to cater for an estimated 200,000 families or 1,000,000 persons, covering the period August to December 2003." (UN OCHA, 5 August 2003).

UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Liberia 2003US\$ 42,740,007million – but response is poor (2003)

- At mid-year, only 20 percent of the 2003 Consolidated Appeal funding has been provided (June 2003)

"As outlined in the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) 2003, the aim of the humanitarian community in Liberia is to save lives and strengthen the coping mechanisms of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), refugees and other vulnerable populations, particularly children and women. Primary focus was on the priority needs of the IDP and refugee populations and their immediate host communities. Assistance to be provided included the provision of relief and protection through an integrated approach that includes prevention, mitigation and capacity building for war-affected persons. Recovery programmes of limited scope were pursued through the rehabilitation of basic social infrastructure and the restoration of traditional economic and agricultural activities. A sub-regional framework to address cross border activities including contingency plans and monitoring of the humanitarian situation was also visualised.

Since the launching of the appeal, response to the CAP for Liberia has been very poor. The lack of resources has forced the humanitarian actors to search for the most cost-effective ways of delivering assistance. This includes responding to the most urgent needs of beneficiaries through the diversion of resources from other programmes.

At the same time, the humanitarian situation on the ground continued to deteriorate. Fighting has spread to several counties in Liberia. This has led to a significant increase in the displacement of population. Recent

armed activity has directly targeted settlements hosting IDPs. While some of the Sierra Leonean refugees have been repatriated, the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire has generated new influx of Ivorian refugees and third country nationals.

The already impoverished host communities are finding it more and more difficult to cope with the increasing burden placed on them by the displaced population. The majority of displaced people are women and children. Their condition are deteriorating rapidly even with the combined intervention of United Nations (UN) agencies and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) using the limited resources that agencies are able to mobilise. Malnutrition, deteriorating health, trauma, socio-economic dislocation and the breakdown of family and community coping mechanisms are some of the challenges faced by these communities.

The absence of a positive response from the donor community to the Consolidated Appeal (CA) coupled with the deteriorating security situation have negatively affected the level of achievement and the quality of service delivery. To address the immediate needs of the displaced populations, UN agencies, International and national NGOs have been compelled to shift from focusing on development objectives to relief activities. Accessibility still remains a major problem. Agencies could not reach about 10,000 people residing in camps as well as thousands of other people, all believed to be caught up in conflict areas currently not accessible to humanitarian assistance.

Under the overall guidance of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), humanitarian response will continue to focus on priority needs of the IDP and refugee populations as well as host communities. The overall objectives are to: reduce vulnerability and susceptibility to hunger and health hazards; protect vulnerable populations; strengthen the capacity and coping mechanisms of war affected populations; promote social cohesion; support trauma healing and peace building as well as enhance the coordination and planning of humanitarian assistance.” (UN OCHA, 3 June 2003)

“The 2003 common humanitarian action plan for Liberia includes four strategic goals:

1. Reduce vulnerability of war-affected populations to hunger, health hazards and rights abuses with focus on the most vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, and assist the repatriation of refugees.
2. Strengthen the capacity and local coping mechanisms of war-affected populations (IDPs, refugees and host communities) to foster self-reliance and reduce dependency on humanitarian assistance, with a focus on women.
3. Promote social cohesion, including peace building and trauma healing, to support the creation of an enabling environment for national reconciliation and sustainable reintegration.
4. Enhance the coordination of planning and delivery of humanitarian assistance supported by an integrated resource mobilisation strategy.” (UN, OCHA 19 November 2002)

Funding Requirements in 2003

Sectors	US\$
Agriculture	954,700
Coordination and Support Services	1,074,947
Education	1,870,000
Family Shelter and Non Food Items	3,700,000
Food	17,288,448
Health	4,659,550
Multi-sector	8,047,662
Protection/Human Rights/Rule of Law	2,709,700
Security	228,000
Water and Sanitation	2,207,000

TOTAL	42,740,007
-------	------------

For details of funding requirements, please access original document [internet: <http://www.reliefweb.int/appeals/2003/files/lib03.pdf>]

Government of Germany donated 500,000 euro for internal refugees in Liberia

- The ICRC has received humanitarian aid funds to provide emergency aid to 28,000 internal refugees in Liberia

“Donors have so far provided just 2 per cent of the \$42.6 million in funding required under the 2003 UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Liberia. UN humanitarian agencies in Liberia continue to urge donors to enable them to assist vulnerable Liberians by funding the Appeal.” (UN, April 2003)

“The Federal Foreign Office is making available 500,000 euro to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva from its humanitarian aid funds, which are to be used to provide emergency aid to 28,000 internal refugees in Liberia.

Besides making available shelter, blankets and urgently needed household goods, the ICRC humanitarian project will also provide basic medical care. The civilian population in Liberia is suffering the effects of the ongoing armed conflict between government and LURD rebel movement forces (Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy). In recent months, tensions in Liberia have increased, as has the influx of refugees from neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire.

This increases the Federal Government's humanitarian aid in Liberia to 1.2 million euro for the current year. Besides the ICRC, the Federal Foreign Office also supports humanitarian aid measures of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and of the World Vision relief and development agency.” (Government of Germany, 22 April 2003)

European Union adopts humanitarian aid plan (January 2003)

- The EU financial aid is for improvement in health care, water sanitation, non-food items and protection

“The European Commission has adopted a €16 million global plan to help meet humanitarian needs in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia. This decision will enable ECHO, through partner organisations working in the field, to provide assistance to the most vulnerable population groups throughout 2003. The funds will be channelled by the Humanitarian Aid Office ECHO which comes under the responsibility of Commissioner Poul Nielson.

The three countries of Coastal West Africa covered by this decision have experienced a succession of wars and civil strife over the last 13 years. Although recent developments in Sierra Leone have been positive, substantial amounts of humanitarian and rehabilitation aid will still be necessary in 2003. ECHO funding will support the re-integration of an estimated 220,000(1) people that are returning home after refuge in Guinea or in other parts of Sierra Leone. ECHO will also target about 60,000 Liberian refugees, as well as vulnerable people living in newly accessible areas who have lost much of their basic infrastructure due to the fighting. [...]

However the conflict in Liberia develops over the next 12 months, vulnerable and internally displaced people will remain dependent on humanitarian aid. ECHO will provide this as needs arise and access allows. ECHO funds will be used primarily for health care, water and sanitation, non-food items and protection." (ECHO, 28 January 2003)

Selected UN activities (2002-2003)

UNHCR sends urgent aid to fleeing IDPs in central Liberia (September 2003)

- As part of an inter-agency effort, UNHCR dispatched trucks of plastic sheeting, water and high-protein to meet the needs of more than 50,000 IDPs from Totota

"The UN refugee agency today sent trucks of emergency aid to assist tens of thousands of people fleeing amid fears of fresh fighting and harassment in central Liberia and heading towards the capital, Monrovia.

As part of an inter-agency effort, UNHCR on Thursday dispatched trucks with plastic sheeting, as well as water and high-protein biscuits provided by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other non-governmental agencies, to meet the urgent needs of more than 50,000 people displaced from central Liberia's Totota town the day before.

"It is not completely clear why the people decided to leave en masse, but it is clear that they are afraid," said Julien Vrancken, UNHCR's field security adviser. "The news of a nearby attack by LURD (Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy) and the arrival of government militia in the camps, harassing and looting, were enough for more than 50,000 people to pack their bags and leave."

[...]

"We need to try to stop this movement now and provide some security to these desperate people," said Kamel Deriche, UNHCR's senior emergency administrator, who was part of the inter-agency mission. "If we don't, there is a great likelihood that these people will walk all the way to Monrovia, seen as the only safe haven these days in Liberia." (UNHCR, 4 Sept. 2003)

UNICEF provides wide-ranging assistance to IDPs (2003)

- UNICEF supports psychosocial care in IDP Camps
- UNICEF supports different school projects and other child-related projects
- UNICEF carries on child protection activities

"Psycho-Social Care: "My favorite things are books with stories. I like stories the best. Yes, I know a story", says Vera, taking a deep breath before her words come pouring out. "One day there was a girl and she was walking down the road in my village and she was carrying a bag of rice. Then some fighters came up to the girl and they yelled at her saying they wanted the rice. But the girl said the rice was for her family. So the fighters shot her and she fell down dead on the road. Then the fighters took the rice and they left. They were laughing. She was a friend of mine from my village." Vera, an 11-year old girl, whose 'story' is unfortunately true. Vera has benefited from UNICEF-supported psychosocial care at the internally displaced persons camp in which she was living outside Monrovia.

Education: "Well, I think UNICEF is doing a good job for us here. It has been supporting different school projects and other child-related projects. If they were not providing this help, we just do not know how some of our children in the (IDP) camp will be in school. For me, my children were attending school in Ricks. But when rebels attacked that place, we had to leave." Sarah, a mother sitting with her children at an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp near Monrovia. UNICEF provides emergency education, health, child protection and water & sanitation support to IDPs.

Children at Risk: "My father is blind. My mother died last year and I dropped from school at class eight. Who will give me money to go to school? If I sit down, I will die and my father will die. Right now, our oldest brother's whereabouts is unknown, but we were told that he was killed in Cape Mount this year ... Children in Liberia? I will say that we are suffering. Struggling is not the best description, because it is more than that. We are dying gradually. When I think for a long time, sometimes, I want to just die now and leave this world, because many of us are suffering ... These are my friends. They want me to dance with them. If I get a good man who wants to take me from this place, I will be happy." Korlu, a 15-year old girl, dressed in black jeans and a red t-shirt, who prostitutes herself at a local nightclub, to help support her father and herself. Korlu is constantly approached by men, before deciding to finally join one of them on the dance floor. UNICEF child protection activities in Liberia help children like Korlu stay off the streets and find better, safer means of survival.

Child Protection: "Sometimes, when we are sleeping in the night, they (armed men) can come and start to break our tent. The last time, some men came here and took away our food and took my big brother away. Since then, we have not seen him." Kiazulu, a 14-year old boy, amongst thousands of other children displaced by fighting in Liberia, many of whom have benefited from UNICEF child protection support at various IDP camps in Liberia." (UNICEF, 28 August 2003)

WFP provides assistance to IDPs (2003)

- WFP gives its contribution to meet the immediate needs of an emergency feeding programme in Liberia
- WFP has turned over half a ton of high-energy biscuit for distribution to IDPs in Salala and Bong county

"The UN World Food Programme said on Monday it had begun flying 400 tonnes of corn soya blend and sugar into the Liberian capital Monrovia to meet the immediate needs of an emergency feeding programme for 50,000 malnourished children.

WFP spokesman Ramin Rafirasme said a chartered Antonov AN-12 cargo plane began ferrying the specialist food supplies into Monrovia from Conakry, the capital of Guinea on Saturday. It would make two flights per day until the entire consignment was delivered towards the end of this week, he told IRIN.

Speaking by telephone from Dakar, Rafirasme told IRIN that the corn soya blend and sugar would be supplied to feeding centres in Monrovia run Action Against Hunger until more supplies could be brought in by ship.

[...]

A WFP ship carrying 2,300 tonnes of emergency food supplies arrived in Monrovia last week. Rafirasme said the next WFP supply ship was due to arrive in the second week of September. The organisation aims to distribute 9,000 tonnes per month to 500,000 needy people in Liberia, which has a total population of about three million. (WFP, 1 September 2003)

“WFP says it has turned over half a ton of high-energy biscuits to MSF for distribution to IDPs in Salala, in Bong County, some 95 kilometers north of Monrovia.

MSF runs a health facility for IDPs in the area of about 20,000 IDPs and it is expected the biscuits would be distributed through this facility to IDPs with nutritional deficiency. The biscuits are part of 17 metric tons of biscuits WFP is expected to bring into Liberia to meet the emergency food needs of IDPs.” (UN OCHA, 5 August 2003)

The UN OCHA conducted a two days training programme with the Joint Security forces on IDPs protection (March 2003)

- Some 55 Liberian security and armed forces personnel attended the intensive training programme on the protection of internally displaced persons

The first of a series of two-day training programmes with the Joint Security forces namely, the Police, the Anti-Terrorist Unit and the Armed Forces of Liberia stationed near all IDP camps, was conducted on the 10 and 11 of March in Monrovia. The workshop looked at general protection issues for IDPs, international humanitarian law, national laws and the Liberian Constitution, Child Protection and SGBV issues. Organizations and institutions that were involved in the facilitation of the training included UNICEF, ICRC, IRC, WFP and UNDP. Additional facilitators included officials from the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defense and the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia.

The training for each set of workshop participants is planned to take the form of three separate activities. The two-day workshops will be followed by further dissemination of materials on general protection for civilians by the police and armed forces and on basic international humanitarian law and thirdly, there are planned discussion forums to include IDPs and the workshop participants and focusing on protection and security concerns. Following the increasing protection concerns in IDP camps especially with regards to security for IDPs due to the incidents of armed presence in the IDP camps and allegations of forced recruitment, the protection monitors held a one-day briefing session at OCHA office in Monrovia. The briefing was an opportunity to discuss a work plan for the protection monitors that would enable a more comprehensive monitoring and reporting of protection concerns. Other agencies and organizations that took part in the briefing were UNICEF, LRRRC, the Ministry of Justice and IRC. (UN, OCHA, 15 March 2003)

OCHA’s protection unit organized a training on general protection of IDPs for journalists (November 2002)

- A two-day training workshop was organized for 40 journalist from the print and electronic media on general protection of IDPS and the ethics of responsible journalism especially in handling protection issues

“As part of its capacity building strategy to highlight protection concerns of IDPs, OCHA's protection unit with assistance from the UNDP funded Capacity Building and Promotion of Human Rights Awareness to Enhance Protection of Civilians with Special Focus on IDPs project, organized a two-day training workshop for 40 journalist from the print and electronic media on 25 and 26 November. The training focused on general protection of IDPs and the ethics of responsible journalism especially in handling protection issues.

Training included sessions on International human rights law, International humanitarian law, basic humanitarian standards; the guiding principles on internal displacement and specific protection concerns including investigating alleged abuses against IDPs. The rationale on responsible journalism purported to look into covering sensitive stories related to protection including issues of SGBV, witness/victim

confidentiality and journalistic responsibility towards the alleged. Also addressed at the workshop were the challenges facing journalists in adequately and viably reporting stories with a humanitarian context. Facilitators were Desmond Davies, Editor, West African Magazine based in London, Kwasi Gyan Apenteng, Editor, African Topics Magazine and Eric Ogozo, IRIN Abidjan. Other facilitators were drawn from the local organizations such as the Press Union of Liberia, Amnesty International Liberia and the Jallah and Associates Law Firm.

The effects of the workshop was immediate and it was clear that many of the journalists present had a very limited idea as to the protection concerns of IDPs or indeed information on the general humanitarian situation in Liberia and the international response to it. The workshop ended on a positive note with some of the journalists organizing themselves to form a committee of journalists to pay a special interest on IDP issues. Response from the workshop however, highlighted the need for follow-up work to sensitize journalist and those working in the media on how to best handle the sensitive issues of protection, particularly as it relates to IDPs.

Under the same project, UNDP and OCHA have collaborated with the Ministry of Gender to launch an awareness raising campaign - raising awareness of the Global initiative of 16 days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence. The first of these took the form of radio broadcasts. Other planned activities include a symposium, radio programmes, printed articles in the media and focal group discussions. Beneficiaries will include Government, legislators and NGOs.

The UNHCR also observed the 16 Days Activism with a launching at the VOA refugee camp to ensure better protection of survivors of violence - as an added value to on going activities of prevention and response to gender based violence.” (UN, OCHA, November 2002)

Protection Coalition, created by UN OCHA's IDP Unit, begins work in Liberia (2002)

- OCHA IDP Unit established a 'Protection Coalition' in consultation with IASC members and bodies interested in strengthening protection for IDPs at the field level
- The Coalition provides a forum for review of protection coverage and support in IDP situations
- In Liberia, the Humanitarian Coordinator requested the Coalition to provide guidance and support to deal with protection issues ranging from IDP camp management to registration and redress mechanisms for victims of abuses
- Response by the Coalition includes the deployment of an IDP Protection Officer to Liberia, an IDP Workshop in Monrovia and a follow-up mission to take place in November 2002

For general information on the Protection Coalition, go to the website of the OCHA IDP Unit [\[External link\]](#)

"Upon the recommendation of the IASC Working Group, the IDP Unit undertook a mission to the Mano River countries from 15-24 April 2002 in order to examine primarily protection issues in Liberia. One of the recommendations of this mission was the deployment of an IDP protection officer to the OCHA office in Liberia who started working in Liberia as of the beginning of August 2002.

The Protection Coalition met thereafter two times on Liberia on 5 August and 10 October 2002 to further clarify the protection gaps which have been brought to the attention of the Coalition primarily by the said mission and through the Humanitarian Coordinator in Liberia.

At its meeting on 10 October 2002 the Coalition endorsed a proposal to send a follow up mission possibly including other Coalition members to evaluate,

in collaboration with the Humanitarian Coordinator and the Country Team, the implementation of the recommendations formulated by the Coalition at its meetings, in particular in the fields of camp management, IDP registration, prevention of and consequences of sexual and gender based violence, security issues related to the provision of health and psychological services, and legal support of IDPs and respect of international human rights and humanitarian law standards.

This proposal reflects also the recommendation made by an IDP Workshop held in Monrovia from 1 to 4 October where Government officials and CT [Country Team] members were trained in the field of Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and discussed the implementation of these principles in the Liberia context." (OCHA IDP Unit, November 2002)

UNDP project aims to strengthen protection of IDPs and other vulnerable groups (August 2002)

- UNDP initiative aimed at strengthening protection of vulnerable groups is based on strategy developed by UN Country Team, in collaboration with various organisations
- One of the project's goals is to promote awareness of human rights among displaced people and host communities where camps are located
- The project aims to build self-reliance among IDPs and host communities

"The UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) has designed an initiative to bolster protection of vulnerable groups. It is based on a strategy developed by the UN Country Team in consultation with the Government, the International Committee of the Red Cross, other international and local NGOs, and local human rights groups.

The UNDP Office in Liberia, in collaboration with these partners and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, is carrying out the US\$500,000 project, co-funded by BCPR and the UNDP Bureau for Development Policy.

The project will improve camp management; strengthen systems for reporting, monitoring and following up on rights abuses; and promote awareness of human rights among displaced people and host communities where camps are located.

The initiative will also provide training for government officials and police and security forces to reinforce the government's ability to spread understanding of and respect for the civil rights of all citizens, working within the framework provided by the Liberian Ministerial Task Force on Protection

'UNDP has a critical role to play in promoting recovery for displaced people, even in the midst of a crisis,' said Marie Dimond, programme specialist with BCPR.

'This approach identifies durable solutions to building self-reliance among displaced people and their host communities. It will also help strengthen the capacity of local and national institutions to facilitate safe reintegration of the displaced back into their communities,' she said.

The initiative will work with local communities, women's groups and the Government to build a collaborative, community-based approach for protecting human rights. These efforts will facilitate resettlement of displaced people, once conditions have stabilized sufficiently for them to return home." (UNDP, 12 August 2002)

FAO help for displaced farmers (July 2002)

- UN FAO develops project to help the Liberian government provide emergency agricultural assistance to displaced farmers
- By providing farmers with essential agricultural inputs, the project aims to encourage sustainable livelihood activities through food production

"The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is to help Liberia's government provide emergency agricultural assistance to war-affected farmers through a project worth US \$237,000.

FAO said in a news release on 13 July that the project, titled 'Emergency Provision of Agricultural Inputs to Refugees, Host Communities and Internally Displaced Farmers in Montserrado County', aimed to encourage sustainable livelihood activities through food production.

The project will provide farmers with essential agricultural inputs, including farm tools, rice and assorted vegetable seeds, fertilisers, groundnuts and sweet potato cuttings. It targets about 7,000 farm families, including 2,000 refugee families, 4,000 displaced families and 1,000 families in host communities.

The Ministry of Agriculture, FAO and NGOs will coordinate project activities. Assistance for refugees will be coordinated with the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)." (IRIN, 17 July 2002)

WHO provides wide-ranging emergency and humanitarian assistance to IDPs (May 2002)

- In May 2002, the health needs of large numbers of displaced people increased due to intensifying fighting in various parts of the country
- WHO responded through intervention in reproductive health, essential drugs and medical supplies, and disease prevention and control

"The month of May 2002 witnessed the exacerbation of the health needs of large segment of the population. The displacement was due to continued and intensified rebel attacks which spread to 2 additional counties, Grand Cape Mount and Montserrado.

The WHO/Liberia emergency and humanitarian response to the situation included intervention in reproductive health, essential drugs and medical supplies, and disease prevention and control. The goal, to reduce avoidable loss of life and burden of disease to which displaced populations are predisposed.

[...]

With the support of WHO, the Ministry of Health commenced the provision of RH services in 6 IDP camps in and around the Monrovia area. The exercise began with an assessment of the RH situation, looking at NGO partners who are providing services and the type of services they provide. The purpose is to bridge the gap in service delivery. All but one camp was found to have some form of RH service in place. This camp with no RH service has been given contraceptives for distribution through NGO already providing health service for its residents.

A meeting of all RH service providers including trained traditional midwives (TTM), has been held. The TTMs were given refresher training and their kit materials replenished. At the end of the entire exercise, it is hoped that the RH service in all IDP camp will be at the minimum level/standard required in the RH protocol.

WHO formed part of two joint UN agencies assessment mission to IDP centers created from recent fighting between LURD rebels and the Liberia Government. The first mission was to Phebe Hospital which has had to close down. IDPs originally in the Gbarnga area where Phebe is located have relocated to the Totota area. At the health post in Gbarnga, first aid and dressing materials were delivered. During the second mission which took the team to Ganta, a basic kit was given to the Ganta United Methodist Hospital for IDPs while ORS sachets were given to the International Rescue Committee (an NGO), which is the major provider of health service in Ganta." (WHO, 31 May 2002)

[Click here for the full WHO report](#)

UNICEF provides wide-ranging assistance to IDPs (2002)

- UNICEF provides emergency assistance to victims of renewed fighting (2002)
- 'Child Friendly Spaces' are established in IDP camps to protect and support displaced children
- UNICEF is supporting management and coordination of services in IDP camps
- Some 30,000 displaced children will receive emergency education
- UNICEF will deploy a child protection officer to work with international NGOs in developing a UNICEF-led child protection advocacy strategy
- UNICEF to help develop a child protection advocacy strategy
- UNICEF is providing support to various health and nutrition programmes

"UNICEF continues to work closely with the humanitarian community, particularly with OCHA and LRRRC (the local government body in charge of Management of IDPs and Refugees) in the key sectors of health, nutrition, water, sanitation, emergency education and child protection.

Response to the crisis through support to NGOs

In response to the current crisis and based on new assessments, UNICEF Liberia has provided emergency medical kits, tarpaulins and high energy/protein biscuits to meet the immediate emergency needs of the fleeing IDPs. With support from UNICEF, the Phebe Hospital Team and Bong County Health Team have set-up temporary clinics in Totota and Salala. They are also operating a mobile clinic along the Gbarnga - Monrovia highway to provide health support to the IDPs. UNICEF has also provided support to Concern Worldwide who has set-up transit shelters in Totota town. UNICEF has also provided Dry Skimmed Milk (DSM) and high energy and protein biscuits to Action Contre la Faim (ACF) for distribution to the IDPs.

In light of the growing number of IDPs in the suburbs of Monrovia, UNICEF has extended its support to SC-UK (for maternal and child health), World Vision (health clinic), ACF (nutrition), International Rescue Committee (emergency education), Lutheran World Federation (shelter), Child Assistance Programme and Community and Human Development Agency (COHDA) (management of Child Friendly Spaces and camps). UNICEF has identified the need for better management and co-ordination at the camp level to ensure that environmental standards are respected, efficiency in service delivery is maintained and codes of conduct are upheld at all times. With support from the Norwegian Government, UNICEF is due to receive in-kind supplies of nutrition, water and shelter (worth US\$ 219,000), and technical support in camp management to enhance child protection interventions. In addition, UNICEF urgently requires essential drugs, emergency health kits, therapeutic milk (F100) and Oral Rehydration Salt. Funds are also required to support construction of shelters and procurement of non-food items.

Child Friendly Spaces improving the environment of children

Working closely with SC-UK, ACF, World Vision International, Child Assistance Programme and COHDA, UNICEF has established Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) and commenced emergency education programme (including Early Childhood Development (ECD) and recreation) in two of the four camps around Monrovia. The other two are under construction. These spaces are used to enhance participation and protection of children in difficult IDP camp environment. The CFS would increase the visibility of children, promote integration of services and monitor provision of services. A CFS comprises of recreational corners for various age levels of children with opportunities for recreation, basic learning, ECD training and trauma relief support. These centres are also supporting mothers by allowing them to engage in income generating activities around the camps and in the communities, and at the same time, improving environment of children and young.

Coordination of IDP support in camps

UNICEF is also supporting management and co-ordination of services in the camps especially in ensuring that services meet the set standards and are environmentally sound. UNICEF is working with local NGO partners and the Government's Liberia Refugee, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) to improve registration of IDPs, camp management, security of IDPs especially for the vulnerable groups. UNICEF is supporting proper camp layout, erection of proper shelter units and setting-up of sanitation facilities. It is also advocating for the protection of children from joining the fighting factions. The interventions include strong information and communication campaigns which aim at increasing commitment and resources to address the compound and complex situation of the IDPs, especially the children, young and women.

Emergency Education

UNICEF will support an emergency education programme for all Liberian primary school children displaced by the conflict. Out of the 75,000 IDPs, an estimated 30,000 are children suitable for participating in ECD and emergency education activities. UNICEF will expand its support by supplying 'school-in-a-box' and recreation kits. It will work in partnership with the International Rescue Committee in providing emergency education and strengthening host communities so that they can absorb IDP children in community schools.

Water and Sanitation

There is an immediate need to increase access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation especially in the new camps around Monrovia and the new sites at Totota, Salala, Ganta and Buchanan. UNICEF will support promotion of behavioural changes that are necessary for the maintenance of hygiene and health in the IDP shelters.

Child Protection measures must be undertaken to curb human rights violations

The protection needs of the IDPs are grave. During the movement into safer areas, there is growing fear that children may have been conscripted as soldiers and helpers by the fighting forces. Girls face the highest risk both during migration and in the camps, where they are exposed to rape and prostitution. The need for special intervention such as advocacy, reproductive health and life skills to improve their situation are of paramount concern. UNICEF will deploy an experienced child protection officer to work with international NGOs (including SC-UK) in developing a UNICEF-led child protection advocacy strategy and redress interventions.

UNICEF will work with partners to support a programme advocating for the release of children being conscripted into the fighting factions. To this end, it will work with a reputable group of human rights lawyers to advocate for the release of abducted children and young. UNICEF will also work with SC-UK to strengthen the exercise of tracing and reunification of separated/unaccompanied children.

Health and Nutrition

UNICEF, in collaboration with SC-UK and World Vision International, is providing support for the treatment of common illnesses and dehydration; reproductive health care; immunization of children under five years of age and pregnant women; malaria prevention; and treatment of diarrhoea, eye infections and acute respiratory infections. UNICEF is working with ACF and SC-UK in therapeutic feeding and nutritional assessment. Support is also being extended to other partners in the areas of psychosocial counseling and safe motherhood." (UNICEF, 29 May 2002)

Selected activities of international organisations and NGOs (2002-2003)

Activities of the ICRC since the beginning of 2003

- ICRC focuses its efforts on medical care, protection and tracing work for IDPs
- ICRC provides water, shelter materials and construction latrines to IDPs in camps

"The ICRC is focusing its efforts on war surgery (JFK Hospital), emergency assistance (providing drinking water and repairing sanitation systems) and tracing work (reunification of unaccompanied children with their families) for both displaced people and local residents. It is active in Mamba Point, central Monrovia, Sinkor, Congo town, Paynesville and Harbel." (ICRC, 9 August 2003).

"The ICRC is providing 100,000 litres of water a day for displaced people gathered in 20 centres situated in Mamba Point, central Monrovia, Sinkor, Congo town, Paynesville and Harbel. In some of these centres, the ICRC is also supplying shelter materials and constructing latrines. Moreover, it has now restored garbage collection services in central Monrovia." (ICRC, 7 August 2003)

"ICRC activities January – May 2003

The upsurge of violence around the Liberian capital, Monrovia, at the beginning of June once again highlighted the chronic insecurity in the West African state. The ICRC has been present in the country since 1990, with a wide range of activities for victims of the conflict.

In Liberia the ICRC concentrates on four principal areas of activity: protection of civilians and people deprived of their freedom, and restoring family links; medical care for the war wounded; assistance to internally displaced people (IDPs) and vulnerable residents; spreading knowledge of international humanitarian law. Some activities are carried out in cooperation with the Liberian National Red Cross Society.

The chronic insecurity in the country has restricted access to the worst affected areas; activities are currently limited to four of Liberia's 15 counties, representing 20% of the country.

[...]

Protection: civilians

Delegates pay regular visits to camps for displaced persons around Monrovia to record information about alleged violations of international humanitarian law. Newly-displaced people from zones affected by conflict arrive in the camps every day, and delegates are able to get information about areas inaccessible to humanitarian agencies.

Assistance: economic security

Economic security activities concentrate on assisting around 150,000 IDPs with/ non-food items and shelter materials, in four counties: Bong, Gran Bassa, Margibi and Montserrado. Since January 2003, approximately 10,000 tarpaulins, 33,000 blankets, 9,500 kitchen sets, as well as soap, buckets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats and clothing have been distributed.

ICRC has begun preparing a new campsite, at Tumutu, in Bong county.

Resident communities and IDPs in these counties benefit from ICRC agricultural programmes: land clearing for crop cultivation, vegetable gardens, planting and maintenance. More than 26,500 metric tonnes of seeds have been distributed, as well as tools.

Assistance: health

Due to the security constraints most major hospitals, health centres and clinics remain closed. The ICRC concentrates on giving support to government hospitals assisting both war wounded as well as the civilian population in general, and a private clinic that helps displaced people.

The J.F.Kennedy hospital (capacity 135 beds), supported by ICRC, is the only functioning surgical facility in the capital, Monrovia. Two surgical teams treat war wounded and other emergency cases.

In Bong Mines hospital, the only referral centre in Bong county, out-patient and in-patient services are provided to IDPs and the resident population (a target population of around 48,000). The ICRC provides free medical services to people affected by the conflict (about half the patients treated) and supports the hospital with drugs and staff training.

In the Blamacee clinic, Montserrado county, the ICRC provides preventive and curative health services to IDPs from Blamacee and Plumkor camps and the resident population.

In Bong Mines hospital and Blamacee clinic the ICRC trains staff in screening incoming patients and wound-dressing.

The Oriental Timber Company hospital in Buchanan has been given a kit with essential supplies for treating war-wounded

Assistance: water and habitat

Water and habitat programmes target the resident population in orphanages, prisons and residential areas in Monrovia. These activities include the construction of 24 safe water points, renovation of 90 wells and 24 permanent latrines and the repair of handpumps.

In Montserrado, Margibi and Bong camps hundreds of latrines as well as standpipes, shower blocks and garbage pits have been constructed; water is trucked in.

Maintenance is carried out in cooperation with the Liberian Red Cross whose volunteers run health and hygiene programmes in the camps.” (ICRC, 16 June 2003)

MSF intensifies its assistance to IDPs in Liberia (August 2003)

- MSF opened a mobile clinic in Tubmanburg in Bomi county for IDPs and residents with no access to medical care
- MSF is providing medical care in three hospitals, nine clinics, and three cholera treatment units in Monrovia and two clinics in IDP camps in Monserrado county
- MSF started therapeutic feeding for 65 severely malnourished children in IDP camps

- MSF-Holland vaccinated 600 children on the Greystone compound for measles and conducted nutritional screening

“MSF intensifies its activities in Liberia and continues exploratory missions in areas inaccessible to humanitarian aid since the beginning of the fighting.

"In the past two weeks we have stepped up our relief activities in Liberia, opening and reopening hospitals and clinics in Monrovia and making active assessments in the city and areas of the country where populations have been cut off from humanitarian aid since the beginning of the fighting." said Dr. Mercedes Tatay, in charge of emergencies.

To support this increase in operations, a chartered 747 of 63 metric tons of emergency aid arrived today for Monrovia, the capital of Liberia, where hundreds of thousands of displaced civilians continue to live without adequate food, water or health services.

This cargo of logistic, food, and medical materials are destined for the hospitals and health facilities run by the international medical humanitarian organization Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF).

Last week, MSF opened a mobile clinic in Tubmanburg in Bomi county and has been providing over 250 consultations a day for a population of approximately 15,000 displaced people and residents who have not had access to medical care since the fighting started.

In addition, MSF is now providing medical care in three hospitals, nine clinics, and three cholera treatment units in Monrovia and two clinics in the camps for displaced persons in Montserrado county. MSF is also trucking and pumping over 200,000 liters of water per day for residents and displaced persons in Monrovia. An MSF team continues to provide medical care, nutritional support, and water in three camps for 60,000 displaced people in Bong county where fighting over the past days only 45 kilometers from the camps has increased insecurity and caused a new influx of displaced persons.” (MSF, 26 Aug 2003

“MSF is starting therapeutic feeding for 65 severely malnourished children in the camps where food has not been distributed since May. On August 6, MSF dispatched a truck with nutritional materials, including high-protein biscuits, to the Salala IDP camp.

According to the USAID/OFDA DART, between August 8 and August 10, MSF-Holland staff vaccinated 600 children on the Greystone compound for measles and conducted a nutritional screening. On the first day of screening, fewer children than anticipated came to the clinic, which might indicate that families are leaving the compound for their homes or other locations as security permits.” (USAID, 13 August 2003)

The International Rescue Committee expands its services to meet Liberian IDP’s needs (August 2003)

- IRC is supporting the resume of education programmes
- IRC health care workers opened a six clinic in the Nezo neighborhood, bringing primary and reproductive health care to some 7,000 IDPs who previously had no access to basic services

“The International Rescue Committee is expanding emergency services to meet the urgent needs of tens of thousands of displaced Liberians crowded into 110 locations in the capital, Monrovia. For the first time in months and in some cases years, hundreds of young displaced children are resuming learning activities this week as part of the IRC's non-formal education program.

The IRC identified teachers and began registration and the distribution of school supplies Tuesday. Classes are set to begin Friday on subjects including reading, math, social studies, hygiene and health and life-skills.

"Schools are closed to students across the country because of ongoing conflict and the majority of them are occupied by displaced people," says program officer Maggie Hans. "These IRC classes will at least provide some normal learning activities for children." The IRC also launched recreational programs for children and youth this week, distributing sports equipment, craft materials and instruments for young people who have had little to do in the settlements.

With increasing reports of rape and other sexual abuse against women and girls, the IRC is taking a lead on expanding emergency services, safeguards and prevention activities in Monrovia. (Read also: [Aid Given Rape Survivors in Monrovia, As Prevention Efforts Begin.](#))

Health Clinics Serve 60,000

IRC health care workers opened a sixth clinic today in the Nezoie neighborhood, bringing primary and reproductive health care to some 7,000 displaced Liberians who previously had no access to basic services. In all, IRC clinics are providing health care services for some 30,000 displaced persons and more than 30,000 people in the communities hosting them.

The IRC's mobile health teams continue to conduct daily measles vaccinations and dispense vitamin A for children. "Over the past two weeks, we've been able to vaccinate 16,640 children between the ages of six months and 15 years," says Dr. Tahlil, the IRC's health coordinator in Liberia. "The goal for the initial campaign is 24,000, and we plan to expand immunization services for 26,000 more children living in 17 additional sites beginning early September."

IRC teams are also constructing latrines and bathhouses at several of the settlements in Monrovia, and will begin rehabilitating water sources next week to ensure an adequate supply for drinking. "The sanitation situation is particularly appalling," says Sam Gonzaga, who is overseeing the IRC's water and sanitation program. "The conditions are complicated by the current rainy season which causes flooding that spreads waste around congested areas."

Beyond Monrovia

An IRC emergency team returned yesterday from an assessment mission to the Kakata area in Margibi County. The IRC and other aid groups are preparing to provide emergency assistance for 13,000 displaced people crammed into the Science College of the University of Liberia in the village of Findal.

As the mosquito-infested site has no functioning latrines, the IRC is preparing to begin latrine construction, creating walls and ceilings with insecticide-treated sheeting. The special tarpaulin will also be used to separate sleeping areas for families. IRC teams will distribute and help install the sheeting.

With the goal of restarting previous programs as soon as possible, an emergency team has surveyed four camps just outside Monrovia where the IRC had been running schools and youth programming. This area in Montserrado County was overrun by violence in May forcing out nearly all of the displaced Liberians and Sierra Leonean refugees living there.

"The camps and surrounding roads appeared calm and Liberians are slowly returning from Monrovia and nearby villages," says emergency response team coordinator Gillian Dunn. "People we met cited food scarcity as the biggest problem and we found a serious deterioration in the shelters," she said. The IRC's schools had been looted, but Dunn noted that the structures are intact and that IRC teachers who were displaced by the violence are among the returnees.

In the coming weeks, the IRC will be participating in an inter-agency effort to relocate tens of thousands of uprooted Liberians who want to escape the crowded Monrovia settlements and move to the larger and more

established camps on the outskirts of the city. "The shift to the Montserrado camps, which have far better water and sanitation services than the makeshift sites in the city, is a temporary measure," said Wubeshet Woldemariam, IRC country director. "But for those living in the outlying regions that have been cut off from humanitarian aid for so long, it brings them one step closer to home.'" (IRC, 28 August 2003)

Oxfam 's activities for IDPs in Liberia (August 2003)

- Within Monrovia, Oxfam expands its work, providing water, sanitation and hygiene training to around 80,000 IDP

"Within Monrovia, Oxfam is expanding its work, providing water, sanitation and hygiene training to around 80,000 displaced people in shelters around the city.

Oxfam's team is delivering 56,000 litres of water per day by truck to the Samuel Doe sports stadium, the International school and Bright Functional school. Staff have installed water tanks at a number of other centres for homeless families.

The team is also building toilet blocks and bathing facilities at sites where displaced people are sheltering in greater Monrovia. Hygiene promoters are distributing blankets, soap and buckets and training people how to avoid disease.

Rubbish collection is also now under way, with staff assisting the Monrovia City Council in the removal of waste across the city and in centres for displaced people. Specialised vehicles have been hired by Oxfam for this purpose." (Oxfam, 28 August 2003)

"Oxfam staff are providing water, sanitation and hygiene promotion support to around 80,000 displaced people in displaced centres in Monrovia.

Public Health

Oxfam is delivering 56,000 litres of water per day by truck to the displaced people's centres at the SKD stadium, International school and Bright Functional school and have installed water tanks at a number of other centres. This work is being extended this week.

Latrine blocks and bath houses are being installed at a number of centres. Hygiene promotion activities are taking place at each of these sites, together with the distribution of blankets, soap and buckets.

Rubbish collection is now underway, with staff assisting the local authority in the removal of waste across the city and in displaced people's centres. Specialised vehicles have been hired by Oxfam for this purpose." (Oxfam, 27 August 2003)

"Oxfam's staff of 25 Liberian nationals have remained in Monrovia throughout the crisis. The most recent round of combat confined them to their homes and Oxfam's office, allowing them only to work intermittently during brief lulls in the fighting. Oxfam teams have been collecting and chlorinating rain water for displaced people living in makeshift shelters, building latrines at Monrovia's central sports stadium where an estimated 50,000 people are seeking shelter, and instructing civilians in the prevention of water-borne disease. Oxfam plans to fly a plane full of water and sanitation equipment - tanks, pumps, pipes, and buckets - into Monrovia early next week." (Oxfam, 6 August 2003)

Caritas Liberia distributes food to IDPs in Liberia (August 2003)

- Caritas Liberia handed out high protein biscuits to about 350 IDP families in Newland IDP camps, Salala Town and Zeinzu Town

“Caritas Liberia, the sister agency of CAFOD, distributed desperately needed food to newly displaced persons along the highway between Monrovia and Gbarnga last weekend, with the help of the World Food Programme (WFP).

They continued their efforts until Zeinzu, a town about 50 km south of Gbarnga. In response to the high food needs throughout the country, Caritas Liberia visited Newland Displaced Camp, Salala Town, and Zeinzu Town, where they handed out high protein biscuits to about 350 families, or approximately 1,600 people. Distributions will continue once supplies are replenished, hopefully within the next few days.

People living in Newland Displaced Camp, on the outskirts of Caresburg, had not yet received relief assistance, and most were malnourished and desperate.

Additionally, people living in Salala Town were not in good health, and welcomed help from Caritas . The largest number of new arrivals was in Zeinzu Town, where people have sought refuge in private homes, school buildings, and churches.

[...]

Caritas Liberia is working closely with the Caritas Internationalis Emergency Response Support Team (ERST) to meet the emergency needs of the Liberian people. Support has already been given to rejuvenating a number of health clinics that had been looted during the fighting.” (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, 26 Aug 2003)

World Vision activities (2002-2003)

- World Vision resume immunisation of women and children in the Blamacee IDP camp
- World Vision will partner with UNICEF to operate a supplementary feeding center for malnourished children
- World Vision distributed food to IDPs in three Montserrado County camps Sawegbeh, VOA-1 and Zuannah Town (February 2003)
- World Vision distributed aid in six IDP camps (November 2002)
- In August 2002, World Vision Liberia and UNICEF launched a joint project aimed at assisting 52,000 IDPs in three counties
- The project involves the provision of various health services, including vaccination and obstetric care
- World Vision providing health services to IDPs in two temporary clinics near Monrovia (February 2002)

“WV Liberia on August 28 resumed the immunization of women and children in the Blamacee IDP camp, about 15km. west of Monrovia and site of a previous WV health project. Children are being vaccinated against six childhood diseases: measles, polio, diphtheria, tuberculosis, whooping cough and tetanus, while women of childbearing age are immunized against tetanus toxoid.

WVL operated a 24-hour immunization, reproductive health and diarrhea control program from a clinic in Blamacee IDP camp from February 2002 to last June when the program was suspended due to the recent war in and around the capital.” (World Vision, 2 September 2003)

“World Vision will partner with UNICEF to operate a supplementary feeding center for moderately malnourished children in the area. Because rebels had taken control of the area for several months, aid agencies were unable to bring food aid into this community, thousands of whom have been displaced from their homes for more than a year.

Tomorrow, World Vision staff hope to begin identifying malnourished children in the community by measuring their height and weight. In addition, the feeding center is open to pregnant women in their third trimester as well as mothers with children up to six months old.

Technically, those who fall below 80 percent of the median standard weight for their height are considered moderately malnourished. Those who fall below 70 percent of the median are considered severely malnourished. In Morris Farm, patients who are severely malnourished can be transferred to a therapeutic feeding center in Monrovia run by Accion Contre le Faim (Action Against Hunger).

In the center, patients receive two daily meals of Unimix, a high-nutrition meal mix and high-protein biscuits provided by UNICEF, in addition to the food they receive at home. One meal per day is also provided to the mothers of children in the center as well. When patients reach 85 percent of the median weight for their heights for two consecutive weeks, they are released from the center. World Vision staff members then will monitor former patients to ensure that they remain healthy.

For the time being, World Vision Hong Kong has provided the funding to keep the feeding center open for three months. Additional funding may become available to keep these services available for up to an additional year, but it is hoped that those living in Morris Farm will eventually be able to return to their permanent homes.

Over the weekend, WV Liberia extended its distribution of WFP-provided maize meal to about 2,500 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Salala, about 60 km. northeast of Monrovia. The Salala IDP camp currently hosts about 30,000 IDPs, many of whom have not received any food aid during the past five months. WVL distributed the food to newly arriving and registered IDPs, many of whom had walked for days to reach the camp just days if not hours before.

Distributions of maize meal are continuing today to some 28,251 beneficiaries at the SKD stadium and 2,018 at the St. Kizitos IDP centre. (World Vision, 2 September 2003)

“World Vision has completed food distributions to about 3,500 people in the Morris Farm IDP camp, about 14 kilometers outside of Monrovia. On Thursday, August 28, about half of the nearly 7,000 community members received food from World Vision in the first distribution they had received since the civil war in Liberia began.

In addition to distributing maize meal, World Vision is also running a health clinic and plans to open a supplementary feeding center at Morris Farm tomorrow. Until now, the Morris Farm camp has not received food aid or free health services in more than three months.

"This is a community that really needs help and it has to be now ? not tomorrow," said Francois Batalingaya, World Vision Liberia's Health and Nutrition Manager.

World Vision began operations at the health clinic at Morris Farm Friday, August 29. Currently the camp of nearly 7,000 has not had local free health care since June.

The clinic will provide preventative, curative and reproductive health care. To prevent the spread of diseases, the clinic will offer immunizations for mothers and children under five. Children will be vaccinated against childhood disease such as measles, polio, diphtheria and tuberculosis, while women of childbearing age will be immunized against tetanus toxoid.

Clinic staff also will provide treatment for malaria and diarrhea on an outpatient basis, as well as prenatal care for expecting mothers and family planning services. In addition, the clinic is outfitted for baby deliveries. Finally, classes on preventing malaria, diarrhea and HIV/AIDS will be offered by clinic facilitators." (World Vision, 2 September 2003)

"World Vision has delivered two large truckloads of maize meal -- 504 50-kg. bags -- to a community of nearly 7,000 displaced people on the outskirts of Monrovia, who hadn't received any food aid in the past four months.

The maize meal, provided by the World Food Programme (WFP), was enough to feed 3,500 people -- roughly half of the entire community of Morris Farm, located 14 kilometres from the centre of Monrovia. Another 3,500 people will receive food today, and World Vision expects to continue the distributions for the next three months.

"The people at Morris Farm have been reduced to scavenging in the forest [for their food]," said Eleanor Monbiot, WV Liberia Relief Manager, "Not only will the food enhance their nutritional status, but it's a significant psychological boost -- showing them that they're not alone." World Vision will also open a 24-hour primary health clinic at Morris Farm tomorrow. Until now, there have been no free health facilities available to displaced people from the community, forcing many of the sick to make the long walk into Monrovia.

"We are very grateful to WFP for their extremely rapid response to this emergency," said Monbiot. "We surveyed the community just 48 hours ago, and were able to distribute food today."

WV continues to distribute WFP-provided maize meal to internally displaced persons (IDPs) at seven IDP camps in Monrovia. Nearly 25,000 IDPs have received this food aid to date. Nearly 5,000 people at the city's main IDP site, the Samuel K. Doe Sports Stadium, have received food in the last two days." (World Vision, 28 August 2003)

"World Vision Liberia has distributed desperately needed hygiene kits to displaced mothers and pregnant women at its health clinic adjacent the SKD sports stadium. A total of 300 beneficiaries received the WV Germany-donated kits containing bath and laundry soap, shampoo, shaving cream, comb, razors, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

The stadium currently hosts about 30,000 IDPs who are in critical need of improved sanitation, food and non-food items such as the hygiene kits, clothes and sleeping mats.

Continuing its emergency health program at the YWCA orphanage in Congotown and the SKD Stadium in Monrovia, WV Liberia today returned to Blamacee, where WV Liberia ran a 24-hour immunisation, reproductive health and diarrhoea control program from February 2002 to last June when the program was suspended due to the fighting in and around the capital.

There, World Vision will resume an immunisation program for women and children. Children will be vaccinated against childhood diseases such as measles, polio, diphtheria and tuberculosis, while women of child-bearing age will be immunised against tetanus toxoid.

WV Liberia plans tomorrow to conduct an assessment at Jahtondo in western Monrovia, where it had previously run a health program. World Vision plans to resume its work there as IDPs return to the area after fleeing the recent fighting. (World Vision, 28 August 2003)

"As the security situation remains precarious in Liberia's capital Monrovia, World Vision is working to deliver aid and provide health services to the population.

At the S.K.D. stadium (with over 40,000 displaced persons) World Vision's clinic is intact and rendering services to IDPs on a 24-hour basis. The services are carried out by medically qualified IDPs and staff seconded to WV by the Ministry of Health. Despite the on-going hostilities, World Vision was able to replenish drugs at the clinic.

Massive movement of displaced persons to Harbel city has been reported, where Liberia's firestone plantation is located. Some residents are moving towards Paynesville, which has remained relatively safe, while others are moving towards Kakata, a city about 50 kilometres north of Monrovia.

During lulls in fighting, residents search for scarce food and drinking water, and spend time burying their dead. "People have started to eat leaves and anything that seems edible, while the security situation remains hopeless," declared Alex Slewion, World Vision Liberia security officer. T" (World Vision, 30 July 2003)

"World Vision Liberia has commenced distribution of World Food Program bulgur wheat, peas, vegetable oil and salt to 23,295 internally displaced families in three Montserrado County camps Sawegbeh, VOA-1 and Zuannah Town.

World Vision Switzerland has provided a matching fund of US\$54,000 towards defraying the operational cost of US\$75,000.00 for the six-month food aid project, while the Government of Taiwan made a contribution of US\$2,000.00. WFP will cover an additional cost of US\$18,918.00 for transporting, storing and handling the food.

With beneficiaries praising WV Liberia's distribution methodology as peaceful, fair and transparent, the agency's commodity officer, Andrew Omwenga, described the first month of the distribution as smooth. The Liberia Refugee, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission, who oversee emergency relief work in the country, also lauded WV Liberia for professionally and transparently conducting the exercise.

At the same time, Andrew spoke seriously of the need for additional food and increased donor funding for hiring of more commodity staff and purchasing of additional logistics to help serve frequent influxes of internally displaced people fleeing into the camps from renewed rebel attacks in parts of the country." (World Vision, 21 February 2003)

(2002)

World Vision distributed aid in six IDP camps (November 2002)

In August 2002, World Vision Liberia and UNICEF launched a joint project aimed at assisting 52,000 IDPs in three counties

The project involves the provision of various health services, including vaccination and obstetric care World Vision providing health services to IDPs in two temporary clinics near Monrovia (February 2002)

"Distribution of agricultural and health relief packages, under the US\$105,000 German Government Grant project for 5,000 war-displaced Liberians, is taking place in all six internally displaced people (IDP) camps earmarked to benefit from the WV Liberia-managed grant. Agricultural tools already distributed include hoes, shovels, cutlasses, diggers, watering cans, rakes, rain boots, files and axes. Under the health relief assistance, beneficiaries have been provided with cooking utensils, used clothes, shoes, buckets, jerry cans, soap and blankets. They are also receiving medication under the grant at WV Liberia-run clinics. They will benefit from tarpaulins, delivery kits, baby kits, and more cooking utensils soon.

Launching the distribution exercise recently at CARI I IDPs Camp in Bong County, WV Liberia ND Dr. Johnson Olufowote praised the German Government for providing the grant and WV Germany for facilitating it with a match of about US\$13,000, to bring relief to the war affected people.

He assured the IDPs of WV Liberia's continued care in their times of distress, saying his agency would always seek assistance for them.

"What we are doing here this afternoon is just one of the tokens of World Vision Liberia identifying with the people of Liberia and the nation. We are here carrying out development work in different parts of the country, but for some time now, we have put emphasis on helping internally displaced people," he said. Sando Johnson, monitor of the Liberia Repatriation Rehabilitation and Resettlement Commission, assigned to CARI, expressed gratitude for the gesture and recalled that WV had always assisted Liberian IDPs. "As you know, Liberia has gone through a series of problems and you have come to assist us. We appreciate your continued assistance to the IDPs?" said Sando Johnson.

Also speaking, CARI I IDPs chairman Augustine Manyango thanked WV Liberia and its donor agencies for the help. He prayed for God's blessing upon donors to empower IDPs to help themselves. He also prayed for a quick end to the war, which has caused so much displacement of people throughout the county, adding this would enable IDPs to return to their homes to seek their own welfare. The IDPs are drawn from CARI I & II, in Bong County; Blamacee, Ricks and Jahtondo in Montserrado County; and Kakata in Margibi County." (World Vision 12 Nov. 2002)

"The UNICEF office in Liberia and World Vision Liberia have signed a new project cooperation agreement to assist 52,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in three counties.

This six-month emergency project, valued at U\$106,856.19 in cash and supplies, will cover four IDP centres and nearby communities in Montserrado, Bong and Margibi Counties, and is the second of such a venture between the two entities to help IDPs in Liberia.

The latest undertaking targets 8,400 children under five years, 10,500 women of child-bearing age, 2,100 pregnant women, and 10,000 community residents to receive curative and preventive health services.

The children will be fully immunised against the six childhood vaccine-preventable diseases - poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and tuberculosis. Pregnant women and women of child-bearing age will be vaccinated against tetanus, while multi-antigen campaigns will be carried out for women of child-bearing age and children under five years.

Other services will be antenatal and post-natal care, delivery services; training of community health workers, including traditional midwives, in life-saving and safe delivery practices; increasing awareness about sexually transmitted infections/HIV/AIDS among IDPs; and promotion of condom use.

Under the first UNICEF/WV IDPs project (worth US\$390,444.), to which WV US provided a match of US\$34,666, about 100,000 IDPs in Gbapolu, Montserrado, Margibi, Bomi and Bong Counties received similar health care over a one-year duration - July 2001 to June 2002.

The latest project will be implemented along side the recently approved German Government assistance package for 5,000 Liberian IDPs to be implemented by WV Liberia." (World Vision, 20 August 2002)

"From two temporary clinics set up on February 9 and 11, in VOA Refugee Camp and at Ricks Institute Campus, both close to Monrovia, WV Liberia has provided health services to 235 internally displaced people (IDPs) who are part of more than 10,000 others fleeing to the areas, becoming the first International NGO to give such services to the new arrivals.

The IDPs are victims of the ongoing war from Lofa County in northern Liberia where they were uprooted two years ago and scattered around various nearby counties. They are currently on the run from Klay, having sought refuge following the January 27 attack on their temporary center in Sawmill.

The VOA Camp and Ricks Institute Campus are just two of the many areas near Monrovia where the IDPs have been arriving since the attack on Klay. WV will continue to carry out needs assessment in accessible areas with the aim to give whatever available assistance.

At the moment, these fleeing war victims are without food, clothes and safe drinking water." (WV, 12 February 2002)

Church World Service (CWS) supports partner efforts to assist displaced families (February – May 2003)

- Goods have been provided to help the Christian Community to meet immediate needs of 2,500 new arrivals at the Perry Town Camp

“CWS is funding the participation of five Liberian church leaders in peace talks scheduled for June 4 in Ghana, and has sent food, blankets and personal hygiene supplies for displaced Liberians. Concerned Christian Community, a CWS partner agency in Liberia, said the latest aid shipment was "like manna from above" and helped nearly 3,600 pregnant and nursing mothers, children and elderly in six internally displaced persons (IDP) camps near Liberia's capital city of Monrovia.” (National Council of churches, 28 May 2003)

“As part of a comprehensive program of response, the global humanitarian agency Church World Service is airlifting 1,500 blankets, 1,000 health kits and 4,296 cans of processed beef to Liberia on Friday (April 11). The goods will help Concerned Christian Community meet the immediate needs of 2,500 new arrivals at the Perry Town Camp, which gives priority to pregnant women, nursing mothers, the ill and the elderly. They will be provided with temporary shelter in 10 transit facilities and will be provided with food, blankets, cooking utensils and counseling services for a three-month period.

CWS has appealed to its 36 member denominations for \$150,000 to support the airlift and three more projects, including a joint Liberian Council of Churches/United Methodist Church nutritional, health care and educational project for 3,000 displaced families in Liberia's Bong region.

The funds also will support two special outreach programs -- Concerned Christian Community's program assisting 750 women refugees and returnees who have been victims of rape and other abuse, and a YMCA leadership training program for 1,600 displaced children and youth, who are the most vulnerable to sexual exploitation and military recruitment.” (Church World Service, 11 April 2003)

“The Lutheran World Federation/ World Service (LWF/WS) in Liberia - a member of the global alliance, Action by Churches Together (ACT) International, is assessing the situation in Totota County in Liberia, after more than 30,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) recently arrived there from camps in Gbangar County. These Gbangar County camps had come under attack by the rebel group, Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD).

"The displaced persons do not want to go back to those camps as this is the second time that they have had to flee," reports Charles Pitchford, the representative of the LWF/WS in Liberia.

The Liberian government still has to decide whether to keep the influx of IDPs in the Totota area using the annexes of existing camps, or to build a new camp in Salala, 32 km (20miles) from the capital Monrovia. Depending on the decision the government takes, LWF/WS will take the lead in the construction of transit shelters, site planning and layout, camp management and the provision of child-friendly spaces in Totato County funded by UNICEF.

Meanwhile close to 16,000 Liberians are believed to have crossed the border into Diecke in Guinea via Baala Bridge, after the capture of Ganta, Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties by the LURD rebel group over the weekend.

"The refugees arriving from Liberia into Guinea are traumatized by the events and many of them are ill and exhausted from a two-day journey," reports Elke Leidel, LWF/WS-Guinea programme coordinator, adding

that, "most of the refugees had fled from Gbangar County when it was attacked and came to Ganta, but left when the latter was attacked."

UNHCR together with other aid agencies in Guinea are establishing a plan for an emergency intervention at the border. LWF/WS in Guinea has been asked by UNHCR to support the refugees with non-food-items. The increase in conflict in the three counties in Liberia has forced the LWF/WS to either put on hold or shift a US\$ 500,000 contract they were set to sign with UNDP, to Maryland county in the southeast. The contract was to provide community services to communities hosting Liberians that fled the Ivory Coast in Grand Gedeh and Nimba county.

Depending on the situation in Liberia, both national and expatriate staff of the LWF/WS in Liberia will be asked to leave, the later going to Freetown, Sierra Leone, "so that we are able to remain in the Mano River Union in order to provide direction and make decisions with regard to our operations in Liberia," said Charles Pitchford." (Action by Churches Together, 1 April 2003)

"The Liberia Council of Churches/United Methodist Church is helping to improve living conditions of 30,000 IDPs in the Bong region, with a school rehabilitation program, including school supplies and furniture; agricultural training and assistance, such as vegetable seeds, to 3,000 families; and establishing a satellite medical center at the Maimu Camp.

Another partner, Concerned Christian Community, is providing trauma counseling, HIV/AIDS awareness, medical and material relief assistance, and training and empowerment for 750 female returnees and refugees who have been victims of rape and other abuse.

The YMCA is providing leadership training for 1,000 young people between 12 and 18 years old. Teens are the single largest group in IDP camps - and also the most vulnerable to sexual exploitation and military recruitment. In addition, 600 displaced or refugee children ages 5-12 are receiving food, literacy training, sports, and recreation through the YMCA." (Church World Service, 24 February 2003)

ICRC coordinating Red Cross Movement response to victims of displacements (2002)

- ICRC is providing emergency response to victims of the crisis in accessible areas, including with shelter material, water and sanitation, mobile medical teams, medical evacuations and follow-up on protection issues
- In June 2002, ICRC provided emergency assistance to a group of 138 displaced lepers, with some 400 family members, whom they discovered in the previously inaccessible town of Sinje
- In July 2002, ICRC launched an appeal effectively doubling their planned budget, mainly in order to set up a surgical unit in a Monrovia hospital to help the ever-growing number of displaced people
- Decision to open surgical unit was taken after a survey showed that surgical facilities were practically non-existent in Liberia, and that only 20 doctors remained in the country

"Since the last ICRC Update No 6/2002 – Liberia, dated 27 February 2002, the highly volatile political and security situation in the country has continued to cause a serious deterioration in the ever-complex humanitarian crisis. Fighting between government forces and dissidents has spread from Lofa and Gbarpoplu Counties to Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Margibi and Bong Counties, causing further population movements and a significant increase in the overall IDP caseload;

As lead agency for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the ICRC is coordinating the joint Red Cross response, working with Liberian National Red Cross Society (LNRCS) to assist the victims

of the recent displacements and fighting in Liberia. The ICRC provides an emergency response for victims of the crisis in accessible areas, notably with shelter material, water and sanitation, mobile medical teams, medical evacuations and follows up protection issues. The ICRC has also been lobbying the authorities to ensure the proper mid-term relocation and settlement of displaced persons (IDPs) in safe locations." (ICRC, 24 May 2002)

"On 12 June, in the town of Sinje in north-western Liberia near the border with Sierra Leone, the ICRC provided a group of 138 lepers accompanied by some 400 family members with mats, blankets, kitchen utensils, soap, and other basic necessities.

When a team of delegates went to assess the situation of internally displaced people in the town, which had been inaccessible for several weeks because of intense fighting, they discovered the lepers, who had had to flee the fighting near the northern Liberian town of Kolakare at the beginning of the month. Not only had the lepers and their families been compelled to leave their homes in great haste, taking with them only the strict minimum, but they had also been the victims of highwaymen. Abandoned by all and in rags, they finally arrived at a camp in Sinje formerly used by Sierra Leonean refugees, most of whom were repatriated at the beginning of the year. The lepers and their families moved into two buildings which had previously been used as workshops, where there was so little space that they could lie down only by taking turns.

The action taken by the ICRC was a stopgap measure to help the people concerned until they are registered by humanitarian organizations that specifically handle these kinds of cases." (ICRC, 13 June 2002)

"The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) launched an appeal today for a budget extension of 6.8 million Swiss francs, bringing the total budget for Liberia to 13 million francs, or twice the amount initially planned (6.2 million francs). The funds will mainly be used to set up a surgical unit in an annexe of the JFK hospital in Monrovia and to help internally displaced persons, whose numbers have been constantly rising in recent months.

The ICRC estimates that nearly 80,000 displaced persons are scattered throughout the country today. The organization is currently providing one form of aid or another for nearly 65,000 of those living in camps and it fears that the present disturbances could cause the displacement of thousands more. ICRC head of operations for West Africa Laurent Corbaz, who recently came back from Liberia, was struck by the disastrous situation in the country. 'The victims' needs, which were already considerable, have simply increased with this new crisis and we must respond to them', he said.

The ICRC will continue to play a key role in providing civilians and the war-wounded with protection and assistance. It will also build up its tracing agency's network in Liberia and in neighbouring countries, mobilizing the local branches of the National Red Cross Societies concerned with a view to locating the relatives of hundreds of children who have been separated from their families by the conflict.

The budget increase was considered necessary given the humanitarian situation in Liberia, which has become steadily worse as a result of the crisis that has been affecting the country since last year. The ICRC will also need to improve its ability to act by increasing the number of its expatriates from 10 to 23." (ICRC, 5 July 2002)

"On 9 July the ICRC signed an agreement with representatives of the board of JFK hospital, in Monrovia, to open a trauma surgery unit there.

The annexe in which the unit will be set up is the only building in the complex - one of the largest in West Africa - to have been rehabilitated after major damage was caused to the hospital when the conflict broke out in 1990.

A six-person medical team will leave for Liberia next week and should be operational by mid-July. Surgical instruments and materials from Norway will be flown in on an Antonov 12 chartered by the ICRC.

The unit, which will treat war casualties and local residents, will have an initial capacity of 50 beds but will subsequently be able to take in up to 160 patients if need be.

The decision to open this unit was taken after a field survey showed that surgical facilities were practically inexistent in Liberia and that only 20 doctors were still in the country. The situation has become worse since clashes between government troops and LURD rebels in Lofa county caused a dozen clinics and hospitals to shut down." (ICRC, 12 July 2002)

National Red Cross Society, with ICRC, works in IDP camps (April 2002)

- As of April 2002, four IDP centres in Bong County housing more than 18,000 IDPs were managed by the Red Cross
- The Red Cross was responsible for IDP registration, food distribution and the coordination of assigning temporary shelter to the most vulnerable people

"From 21 April, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), supported by the Bong Chapter of the Liberian National Red Cross Society (LNRCS), worked in the IDP camps. The Bong Chapter was responsible for the registration of the displaced population, distribution of food provided by World Food Programme (WFP) and for the coordination, with local authorities and the Liberian Relief, Relocation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), of assigning temporary shelter to the most vulnerable population in the following centres. The Bong Chapter is also responsible for first aid and preventive health/hygiene campaigns at the centres.

Red Cross Managed IDP Centres

Centre	Population	Lead Role	Responsibility
Gbalatuah / Reception Centre	6,918 persons (1,995 families)	ICRC / Bong Chapter	Management, food and non-food distribution, tracing, and protection.
TV Tower / Transit Centre	4,638 persons (931 families)	ICRC / Bong Chapter	Management, food and non-food distribution, tracing and protection.
CARI / IDP Centre	7,011 persons (1,788 families)	Bong Chapter	Management, shelter, food and non-food distribution, and tracing.
Total	18,562 persons (4,714 families)		

(IFRC, 31 May 2002)

[Click here](#) to see the full IFRC Liberia Annual Report

IOM assesses IDP situation in Liberia with a view to developing a humanitarian assistance programme (October 2002)

- IOM mission assesses IDP numbers, needs and vulnerability, the likely cost of an assistance programme, potential IDP camp management, and vocational skills training projects

"IOM this week dispatched an assessment team to Liberia, at the invitation of UNOCHA and UNHCR, to review the IDP situation with a view to developing a future humanitarian assistance programme. Funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the mission will assess the IDP population in terms of their numbers, needs and vulnerability, and will look at the likely cost of an assistance programme. The team will also look at potential IDP camp management and vocational skills training projects.

Estimates of the number of IDPs in Liberia vary, but currently stand at around 130,000. The majority are located in the greater Monrovia area and were displaced by fighting between Liberian Government Forces (AFL) and the rebel group known as Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD).

There are also some 10,000 Sierra Leonean refugees in camps in the Monrovia area, 4,600 of whom had been registered by UNHCR by the end of August 2002. Elsewhere in the country, there are an estimated further 5,000 refugees, many of them displaced former residents of the Sinje refugee camp, 50 miles from Monrovia, which was attacked by rebels on 20th June." (IOM, 11 October 2002)

Save the Children Fund activities (2002)

- Displacement has led to large numbers of children being at particular risk of malnutrition and disease, as well as being vulnerable to exploitation and abuse
- SCF response includes emergency assistance, child protection activities and family reunification

"Key issues affecting children

- In 2002, cross border conflict has displaced an estimated 60,000 people from northern Liberia, of which more than 30,000 are currently accessing emergency services in seven camps in three counties.
- Large numbers of children are at risk of malnutrition and disease due to lack of access to food, water and sanitation, and health services.
- Displacement is putting children at risk of family separation.
- Lack of income-earning opportunities are forcing many children into exploitative livelihoods such as prostitution, leaving them vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse.

Save the Children's response

Assessing movements of displaced people and providing assistance such as mother and child health, reproductive and sexual health services, provision of non-food items such as clothing and household items, and family tracing services.

Protecting children from exploitation and abuse and working to prevent them from being separated from their families and being recruited into fighting forces.

Reuniting children with their families and supporting community-based child protection structures." (SCF, 18 September 2002)

[Click here](#) for the full SCF emergency update of September 2002

CRS activities (2002)

- CRS, together with implementing partners, is involved in screening and registering IDPs in four sites near the town of Buchanan
- CRS also distributed emergency food aid in the IDP centres

- Other CRS activities in Liberia are in the fields of agriculture, health, capacity building, justice and peace - as well as relief and rehabilitation

"Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the US-based humanitarian agency, continues to respond to the crisis of Liberians displaced from their homes by the recent conflict in the north/central part of the country. On June 6th, CRS carried out an emergency food distribution in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County. The majority of the internally displaced now residing in Buchanan fled fresh fighting from the northeastern Bong County area.

Sporadic clashes between Liberia government forces and rebels have caused significant population movements, affecting large parts of the country. The fluidity of these population displacements has plagued the registration and verification processes in the majority of internally displaced camps in Liberia, which are now scattered throughout much of the country. CRS is working closely with its implementing partner Caritas, as well as the Liberian Red Cross, and Action Contre La Faim to accurately screen and register the 1,346 internally displaced people in four separate sites with the Buchanan city limits. Following the registration, CRS executed a rapid emergency food distribution to the targeted population to meet their immediate basic needs for the next two weeks. Family heads were given a food packet consisting of lentils, bulgur wheat, oil and a nutritious porridge mix called corn-soya blend.

CRS is the overseas relief and development arm of the US Catholic Church. Our presence in Liberia dates back to 1990, and activities include a variety of developmental programs -- agriculture, health, capacity building, justice and peace -- in addition to relief and rehabilitation. CRS provides assistance to all those in need regardless of religious creed, ethnicity or gender." (CRS, 11 June 2002)

Lutheran World Federation activities (2002)

- Lutheran World Relief, a partner of Lutheran World Federation, appeals for funds to provide IDPs with shelter, water and sanitation (February 2002)
- LWF providing temporary shelter for thousands of newly arrived IDPs near Klay Town (February 2002)
- LWF subsequently revises its programmes to assist more than 30,000 IDPs with shelter, water/sanitation, food and non-food items, and counselling
- LWF is pivotal in coordinating the response by ACT members to the Liberian emergency

"In Liberia, thousands of people have fled renewed fighting days (sic) between government forces and rebel soldiers in recent days. The conflict has now spread to areas near Monrovia, the capital. Lutheran World Relief is appealing for contributions to provide people displaced by the conflict with shelter, water and sanitation.

Last weekend the fighting affected the 20,000 people who had gathered near the town of Klay about 25 miles from Monrovia. Lutheran World Relief's partner in Liberia, the Lutheran World Federation, had been helping provide temporary shelter for thousands of people there. Hundreds more were still living in the open when fighting broke out February 10 and thousands fled. Klay had been a place of refuge and aid for people from Liberia's troubled north and west.

LWF has clothing and other supplies from LWR, plus \$10,000 for seeds and tools so that displaced people can grow their own food in areas where the situation is stable. However, there is an immediate need for emergency assistance.

Earlier this month LWF's offices and warehouse in the northwestern city of Tubmanburg were looted. "We found a town that was practically deserted," said Rev. Sabine Foerster, a Lutheran Church in Liberia pastor

who visited the town. 'The only people who remained were the elderly and sick people and a priest who has given shelter to about 600 IDPs (internally displaced people) in the Roman Catholic Church compound.'

LWR is seeking contributions for three months of crisis relief and nine months of rehabilitation assistance for 22,000 people in Liberia. Some have been forced to move four times by more than a year of intermittent fighting." (LWF, 13 February 2002)

"Fighting between the security forces of the Liberian Government and LURD dissidents in Lofa, Gbarpolu, Bomi, Cape Mount, and Bong Counties has once more created massive displacement of people. Around 130,000 persons have settled in 14 camps in the Western suburbs of Monrovia, in Bong, Kakata, Margibi, Grand Bassa, and Nimba counties. The majority of the IDPs are said to be women and children who are in desperate need of relief assistance as the majority have lost all their belongings during multiple displacements from the fighting. Presently, all life support assistance being provided by the humanitarian community such as shelter, water, sanitation, and medical care are described by LWF - Liberia and other humanitarian players in the country as grossly inadequate.

In this revision, Lutheran World Federation / World Service (LWF/WS) are revising their programs to reach out to more than 30,000 of the 130,000 IDPs. LWF/WS will provide shelter, WatSan, non food items, high protein foods to malnourished children, psychosocial counselling and create awareness for the prevention of sexual exploitation of 6,000 women and girl children. In the area of counselling, LWF will collaborate closely with the Lutheran Church of Liberia (LCL) who are also providing health services to some of the IDPs through their mobile health clinics. The implementation period of the appeal will now run from January 2002 to March 2003. The additional activities described in this revision are planned for the period October 2002 to March 2003.

LWF is also playing a very crucial role in the co-ordination efforts of the ACT members responding to the emergency in the country and at the same time, collaborating with UN agencies, the EU and USAID offices in Monrovia. It is also an active member of the management Steering Group (MSG), a consultative body of the International Non Governmental Organisations in Liberia." (ACT, 3 October 2002)

Concerned Christian Community (CCC) assisting IDP victims of sexual abuse (2002)

- Concerned Christian Communities (CCC) is providing emergency health care to rape victims who are IDPs in the Sawmill-Tubmanburg areas, as well as material assistance and income-generating activities

"Concerned Christian Communities (CCC), a member of the Liberia Christian Council (LCC), a CWS partner, is responding to the psycho-social needs of women and children who have suffered sexual abuse in the ongoing fighting in the North West county (Lofa) of Liberia.

Emergency Appeal:

The assistance will include basic emergency health care to the rape victims, material assistance and also small grants for income generating activities to enable them re-establish their livelihood. The completion date of this project is Dec. 31, 2002.

Specifically, CCC will work with internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sawmill-Tubmanburg, where more than 15,000 persons sleep in an open field. Sawmill is the nearest 'safe' city to Gbarpolu County where fleeing civilians could reach without much difficulty. CCC is assisting with psycho-social assistance for female Liberians and refugees who were raped or harassed while fleeing the military activities in the North West county (Lofa) of Liberia as well as to conclude the work with Refugees in Cape Mount.

This includes counseling services to women and girls in target response locations; emergency health care to female victims; craft-training for rape survivors; the provision of small grants, seeds and tools to traumatized victims undergoing counseling to enable them re-establish their livelihood; the eradication of prostitution and idleness among target beneficiaries.

The targeted beneficiaries include women and girls from the IDP and refugee camps along with the elderly victims of the military activities in Liberia. All targeted beneficiaries are rural farmers." (CWS, 5 February 2002)

MSF briefs the UN Security Council on the humanitarian situation in the Mano River region (May 2002)

- MSF tells the UN Security Council that 'the political agenda of the international community is significantly undermining the humanitarian needs of the people of this region', referring to both Liberia and Sierra Leone
- MSF has been working in the region for ten years

"Médecins Sans Frontières is grateful for this opportunity to address members of the Security Council on our current concerns for the people of the Mano River Union in West Africa, a region where our organization has worked extensively over the past decade.

This is the third time in the last year that MSF has brought the problems facing the people of West Africa to your attention.

The war in Sierra Leone has been officially declared over and the largest UN peacekeeping force in the world has been deployed throughout that country. Meanwhile, the conflict in Liberia is gaining momentum.

The problems facing West Africa today cannot be dealt with in isolation, but rather must be handled with a regional approach. The council must not consider the problems in Sierra Leone resolved as long as the troubles are increasing in Liberia.

Between February and May 2002, MSF carried out an extensive study in order to gain a global perspective on the humanitarian situation in the region. The report we have distributed to you today shows an acute picture of the current problems and challenges that the most vulnerable populations are facing. Given the clear lack of protection of civilians that exists in this context, the findings outlined in the Save the Children and UNHCR report on sexual exploitation in the camps are not surprising.

Today, MSF is concerned that the political agenda of the international community is significantly undermining the humanitarian needs of the people of this region." (MSF, 21 May 2002)

[Click here](#) for the full text of the MSF briefing.

See also the section on 'subsistence needs/ general' in this profile.

References to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

Known references to the Guiding Principles (as of November 2002)

- References to the Guiding Principles in the national legislation
- Other references to the Guiding Principles (in chronological order)
- Availability of the Guiding Principles in local languages
- Training on the Guiding Principles (in chronological order)

References to the Guiding Principles in the national legislation

None

Other references to the Guiding Principles (in chronological order)

<p>LRRRC Draft IDP Camp Management Guidelines: "Internally Displaced Persons shall enjoy, in full equality, the same rights and freedom as provided for under the Humanitarian Charter, the UN Guiding Principle on Internal Displacement and other international and domestic instruments. The Humanitarian Charter and the UN Guiding Principle on Internal Displacement reaffirm the fundamental importance of three key principles on internal displacement: The right to life with dignity The distinction between combatants and non-combatants The right to be protected against forcible return to or resettlement in any place where their life, safety and liberty and/or health would be at risk."</p>
<p>Source: Liberian Refugee, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC)</p>
<p>Date: October 2001</p>
<p>Documents: Included in the NRC Training Report October 2001</p>

Availability of the Guiding Principles in local languages

None

Training on the Guiding Principles

<p>NRC training workshop: The Global IDP Project of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), in collaboration with the Liberian government ministry responsible for the protection and assistance of refugees, returnees and IDPs (Liberian Refugee, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission, LRRRC), held a 3-day training workshop on the Guiding Principles in Monrovia, Liberia. The workshop was part of a global NRC effort to disseminate and explain the Guiding Principles to representatives of governments, NGOs, the UN agencies and the displaced themselves, in order to ensure better protection and assistance to internally displaced persons. A total of 48 participants attended the workshop, more than 25 of whom had travelled to Monrovia from the provinces.</p>
<p>Sources: LRRRC, other government agencies, national and international NGOs, UN agencies, IDP community representatives</p>
<p>Date: 23-25 October 2001</p>
<p>Document: Report of the Training Workshop on the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, NRC, 23-25 October 2001</p>

<p>OCHA IDP Unit training workshop: On the recommendation of the Protection Coalition, the OCHA IDP Unit organised an IDP workshop in Monrovia, in October 2002. Government officials as well as UN Country Team members were given training on the Guiding Principles. Discussions focused on the implementation of the Principles in the Liberian context.</p>
<p>Sources: Government officials and UN Country Team members</p>

Date: 1-4 October 2002
Document: As of November 2002, the workshop report was not yet available. For further information and updates, go to the website of the OCHA IDP Unit.

<p>OCHA Protection Unit Workshop: With assistance from the UNDP funded Capacity Building and Promotion of Human Rights Awareness to Enhance Protection of Civilians with Special Focus on IDPs project, OCHA's protection unit organized a two-day training workshop for 40 journalist from the print and electronic media on 25 and 26 November, general protection of IDPs and the ethics of responsible journalism especially in handling protection issues. Training included sessions on International human rights law, International humanitarian law, basic humanitarian standards; the guiding principles on internal displacement and specific protection concerns including investigating alleged abuses against IDPs. The rationale on responsible journalism purported to look into covering sensitive stories related to protection including issues of SGBV, witness/victim confidentiality and journalistic responsibility towards the alleged. Also addressed at the workshop were the challenges facing journalists in adequately and viably reporting stories with a humanitarian context.</p>
Sources: UN, OCHA
Date: 25-26 Novembre 2002
Document: For futher information, go to the website of the OCHA IDP Unit.

Coordination

The UN OCHA has set up a Humanitarian Information Center (HIC) in the capital Monrovia (September 2003)

- The HIC has been set up for relief workers
- It will at as a central location for data and information resources
- It aims at improving the co-ordination of humanitarian responses to the crisis

“A Humanitarian Information Centre (HIC) for relief workers in Liberia has been set up by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the capital Monrovia.

It is intended to act as a central location for data and information resources, with the aim of improving the co-ordination of humanitarian responses to the crisis.

Located at the offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Mamba Point diplomatic district, the Liberia HIC provides free Internet access to relief workers and maintains a web-based “Help Desk” service offering practical information and advice on the Liberian crisis.

“Many non-governmental organisations have a real problem with internet access in Liberia,” Bill Bell, the acting Manager told IRIN on Monday.

The HIC provides contact lists and specialist maps, details of planned meetings and technical advice to help relief ortanisations manage data and information more effectively.

OCHA operates the Liberia HIC in coordination with UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Joint Logistics Cell, the Department for Peacekeeping Operations, the UK Department For International Development, USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance and the Aid Workers Network.” (IRIN, 1 September 2003)

A technical working group (TWG) has been established to prepare a proposal for the registration of IDPs in and around Monrovia (August 2003)

- The TWG should develop strategies and put in place a mechanism for the registration of IDPs
- The new system of registration aims at increase the quality of the distribution system

“A technical working group (TWG) was established on August 20th with the responsibility to prepare a proposal for the registration of IDPs in and around Monrovia. This entails developing strategies and putting in place a mechanism for the registration of unspecified number of IDPs scattered in makeshift camps and in host families in the city. NRC was specifically asked to be part of the TWG together with WFP, UNHCR, OCHA, LRRRC and WVI.

A methodology has now been developed, which describes how the transfer of approximately 130.000 IDPs from the capital back to the camps will take place, as well as the registration, verification of case-load, distribution system and post-distribution monitoring and follow-up. It is believed that as many as 400.000 IDPs are presently residing in the capital. 130.000 are believed to be from other counties (Lofa, Bomi, etc...), the remaining IDPs are from the capital itself or areas nearby. These persons will not be transferred to the camps.

The installation of a new and more efficient registration system in the camps will have a tremendous impact on the quality of the distribution system and give lead agencies and NGOs active in the camps a better overview of the target groups and their composition and special needs. This is also likely to have a positive effect on the willingness and interest of donors (such as ECHO) to finance activities in the camps. For more information about this strategy and the processes leading to it, please see attached document.

This strategy is part of a three-phase strategy towards the return of IDPs to their home areas. Given that the security situation in the country (Monrovia and the rest of Liberia) continues to improve, it is estimated that the IDPs will stay in the camps located just outside the capital during 6 months/one year.” (NRC, 30 August 2003)

A Shelter coordination meeting held on camp management (August 2003)

- The meeting concluded that Camp Managers should visit the regular IDP camps to access the concerns raised and advise the UN agencies on the way forward

“The issues raised concerned IDP Camp Management. The issue of IDPS returning to the regular IDP camps was the center of discussion.

Concerns raised at this meeting were:

Are the regular camps safe for the return of the IDPs?

When and how will food distribution be carried out for the few IDPs that are now in these IDP camps?

Who and when will non-food items be provided for those IDPs that are returning to their original camps?

The meeting concluded with the following actions to be taken:

Camp Managers should visit the regular IDP camps to access the concerns raised and advise the UN Agencies on the way forward.
The visits and meeting with the occupants of the camps will commence on Thursday, 28 August.” (WHO, 26 Aug 2003)

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AFL	Armed forces of Liberia
BHR	Bureau for Humanitarian Response (United States)
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
ECOMOG	Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
CGP	Common Ground Productions (Search for Common Ground)
FFP	Food for Peace Office (United States)
FY	Fiscal year
GOL	Government of Liberia
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally displaced person
IGNU	Interim Government of National Unity
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LNRCS	Liberian National Red Cross Society
LNTG	Liberian National Transitional Government
LNTG II	Liberian National Transitional Government II
LRRRC	Liberia Refugee, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission
MP	Military police
MSF	Medecins sans Frontieres
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NPFL	National Patriotic Front of Liberia
NPP	National Patriotic Party
OFDA	Office of United States Foreign Disaster Assistance
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SCG	Search for Common Ground
ULIMO	United Liberation Movement for Democracy
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nation's Children's Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNOMIL	United Nations Observer Mission to Liberia
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USCR	United States Committee for Refugees
USD	United States Dollars
VOA	Voice of America
WFP	World Food Programme
IRIN	Integrated Regional Information Networks
AFP	Agence France Presse
SOD	Special Operations Division
ORS	Oral Rehydration Solution
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
WHO	World Health Organization
NFI	Non Food Items

LIST OF SOURCES USED

(alphabetical order)

Action Against Hunger - USA (AAH-USA), 31 January 2002, New outbreak of violence in the south Lofa: civilian populations once more forced to flee in the face of gunfire

Internet : <http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/70dbf2132a3e7df85256b5200716601?OpenDocument> , accessed 15 May 2002

Action Against Hunger - USA (AAH-USA), 5 August 2003, Food Security and Nutrition Update

Internet : http://www.aah-usa.org/resources/AAH_Liberia_Aug03.pdf , accessed 6 August 2003

Action Against Hunger - USA (AAH-USA), August 2003, Liberia - While the diplomatic prevarications continue, Liberia is plunging into apocalypse and desperation

Internet : <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/fromthefield/105973787216.htm> , accessed 5 August 2003

Action by Churches Together (ACT), 11 December 2001, ACT Alert Liberia 1/2001: Renewed fighting in Lofa County sends over 5,000 people on the move

Internet : <http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/6577e71a7253cfc3c1256b1f004cd33d?OpenDocument> , accessed 19 December 2001

Action by Churches Together (ACT), 12 March 2003, Plight of people worsening as civil crisis threatens to spiral out of control in Liberia

Internet : http://www.act-intl.org/news/dt_nr_2003/upliberia0203.html , accessed 30 April 2003

Action by Churches Together (ACT), 20 September 2001, ACT Appeal Liberia: Assistance to IDPs and returnees - AFLR11 (Revision 2)

Internet : <http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/ddfa729c88a2b5cb85256acd0053a6a6?OpenDocument> , accessed 6 December 2001

Action by Churches Together (ACT), 23 April 2001, ACT Appeal Liberia

Internet : http://act-intl.org/appeals/appeals_2001/AFLR11Rev1.html , accessed 18 July 2002

Action by Churches Together (ACT), 25 May 2001, Liberia update: worsening humanitarian crisis

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/930926618af8fc2285256a5c00646c2c?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Action by Churches Together (ACT), 29 August 2003, Healing a battered and broken nation - the new battle facing Liberia

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/5918e3c476748f3ac1256d910038aae0?OpenDocument> , accessed 1 September 2003

Action by Churches Together (ACT), 29 January 2003, ACT appeal Liberia: Assistance to IDPs and Refugees - AFLR-31

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/2d84a1b69f415ef385256cbe006ba374?OpenDocument> , accessed 29 April 2003

Action by Churches Together (ACT), 3 October 2002, ACT appeal Liberia – emergency relief – AFLR-21 (Rev. 3)

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/77864a0876ecc266c1256c4700387941?OpenDocument> , accessed 4 November 2002

Action by Churches Together (ACT), 30 March 2001, ACT Appeal Liberia: Assistance to IDPs and Returnees - AFLR11

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/92357619325cdb16c1256a22004bbc04?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Action by Churches Together (ACT), 4 May 2001, "Liberia: Thousands of displaced need help"

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/019389d628d6bd3ec1256a42004e3c3f?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Action by Churches Together (ACT), April 2003, ACT News Update Liberia 0503: Thousands displaced as Liberian conflict increases

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/b52821d6de27292a85256cfb005911af?OpenDocument> , accessed 23 April 2003

Action contre la Faim (ACF), 14 December 2001, Nord-ouest du Libéria : Plusieurs milliers de personnes déplacées se trouvent à nouveau totalement démunies et sans protection

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/UNID/CA38A4BCE33501AF85256B220077D95C?OpenDocument> , accessed 17 December 2001

Action contre la Faim (ACF), 2000, Liberia Mission

Internet : <http://web.archive.org/web/20000823050626/www.acf-fr.org/eng/missions/mislib.htm> , accessed 19 July 2002

Action contre la Faim (ACF), 27 July 2001, Liberia: Thousands of Liberians trapped in Lofa, lacking both aid and protection

Internet : <http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/09b8e3b4b68f2fc8c1256a9900489c80?OpenDocument> , accessed 6 December 2001

Action contre la Faim (ACF), June 2001, "ACF Libéria: Action contre la Faim renforce en urgence ses programmes pour venir en aide aux populations fuyant le Nord du pays"

Internet : <http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/18cfa807d2cc77ee85256a5e00635bd3?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Agence France-Presse (AFP), 10 June 2003, Liberia sliding towards catastrophe: WFP

Internet : <http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/1c2a501dfbc686d0c1256d4100525d32?OpenDocument> , accessed 11 June 2003

Agence France-Presse (AFP), 10 October 2000, "Liberian government confirms rebel attacks in north"

Internet : <http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/826df939c960f61dc12569750039d48f?OpenDocument> , accessed 16 October 2000

Agence France-Presse (AFP), 12 December 2001, Several thousands displaced in renewed fighting in Liberia

Internet : <http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/3d1d6080705408cec1256b200051d540?OpenDocument> , accessed 19 December 2001

Agence France-Presse (AFP), 13 February 2003, Rebels attack town in southeast Liberia, broadening front

Internet : <http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/c98f16b77aacad9f6c1256ccd00423e29?OpenDocument> , accessed 30 April 2003

Agence France-Presse (AFP), 17 March 2003, Liberian president orders probe into aid workers' killings

Internet : <http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/229ba9ff2466c076c1256cec005bf737?OpenDocument> , accessed 30 April 2003

Agence France-Presse (AFP), 18 April 2003, Liberian rebels accused of maiming civilians, soldiers

Internet

:
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/b92a6dd81f1e012e49256d0f0017faa8?OpenDocument> , accessed 29 April 2003

Agence France-Presse (AFP), 18 December 2001, Intensified fighting endangers internally displaced Liberians

Internet

:
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/f9b651e6967216f2c1256b2600608aee?OpenDocument> , accessed 19 December 2001

Agence France-Presse (AFP), 19 November 2001, Liberian war and rape victims languish in camps for displaced

Internet

:
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/7dafc0a2def9f7f985256b090073abb1?OpenDocument> , accessed 6 December 2001

Agence France-Presse (AFP), 20 May 2003, Heavy fighting in Liberia after rebels seize key ports

Internet

:
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/71970737f235c5a5c1256d2c0056d683?OpenDocument> , accessed 20 May 2003

Agence France-Presse (AFP), 20 September 2000, "Over 13,000 Liberians displaced by fighting in north: aid workers"

Internet

:
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/ca0e82d8212efed7c1256960004f9901?OpenDocument> , accessed 20 September 2000

Agence France-Presse (AFP), 21 May 2001, "WFP's operations in Liberia badly affected by restrictions"

Internet

:
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/143cf4734ab5535ac1256a540034b716?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Agence France-Presse (AFP), 21 November 2001, War turns former Liberian provincial hub into ghost town

Internet

:
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/832e8f2fbaf6f84ec1256b0b005eca36?OpenDocument> , accessed 6 December 2001

Agence France-Presse (AFP), 25 April 2001, "Liberia: "Dissidents" take towns in northern Lofa County"

- Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/1a4a006722a19ba1c1256a3a0049cc41?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001
- Agence France-Presse (AFP)**, 27 February 2002, West African leaders agree to cooperate to end border disputes
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/d2fc8ae9db883867852567cb0083a028/7fe270441f13895cc1256b6d00646ad9?OpenDocument> , accessed 14 May 2002
- Agence France-Presse (AFP)**, 28 July 2003, Rebels seize key city in Liberia as west Africa fails to respond to crisis
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/10319ec6dbefbd5949256d72001de8a4?OpenDocument> , accessed 1 August 2003
- Agence France-Presse (AFP)**, 28 May 2002, Thousands flee fighting in northwest Liberia
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/3bdccdcfcfd06bac1256bc7005c0d1e?OpenDocument> , accessed 31 October 2002
- Agence France-Presse (AFP)**, 29 April 2003, Liberian troops battle rebels on two fronts
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/88850303046b03a4c1256d18004ac19e?OpenDocument> , accessed 30 April 2003
- Agence France-Presse (AFP)**, 5 March 2001, "Liberian defense minister says key northern town in rebel hands"
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/7bcc82f607c00fc3c1256a070059012c?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001
- Agence France-Presse (AFP)**, 6 February 2001, Liberian forces fight dissidents on border with Guinea: reports
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/bb2a4ac65da2fdabc12569eb0044a427?OpenDocument> , accessed 5 March 2001
- Agence France-Presse (AFP)**, 7 March 2001, "Liberia announces diamond export ban ahead of UN meeting on sanctions"
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/f4e043f77cf4618ec1256a08005624a4?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Agence France-Presse (AFP), 7 November 2001, Six months on, Liberia feels the heat of UN sanctions

Internet

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/546cd8d7f133be4cc1256afd0055c6c9?OpenDocument> , accessed 6 December 2001

Agence France-Presse (AFP), 8 July 2002, Peace talks on Liberia begin but chances of breakthrough nil

Internet

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/6580faec86670f0385256bf00066a650?OpenDocument> , accessed 30 October 2002

Agence France-Presse (AFP), 9 April 2003, Liberian rebels attack displaced camp near Monrovia

Internet

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/f81534fa46d7667549256d04000dcbb2?OpenDocument> , accessed 6 May 2003

Agence France-Presse (AFP), 9 October 2000, "Liberian rebels attack town in southward advance"

Internet

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/152f4cbed045548ec1256973004b16ff?OpenDocument> , accessed 16 October 2000

AlertNet, 12 September 2002, Liberia's Taylor undermines regional peace drive

Internet

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/7d7965a5834a5a16c1256c36005a0ca4?OpenDocument> , accessed 30 October 2002

AllAfrica.com, 8 February 2003, Fighting near the Liberian capital drives thousands into bush

Internet

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/9dc14b4e4adcbe75c1256ccc00513dd4?OpenDocument> , accessed 29 April 2003

American Refugee Committee, 10 May 2001, "ARC launches Emergency Appeal for Liberia"

Internet

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/5b6bf35b98b92b9785256a4800549fef?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Amnesty International (AI), 11 December 2001, Liberia: Independent human rights monitors urgently needed as civilians are increasingly targeted in conflict

Internet

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/32a6c6799c6f8f1ac1256b1f005a7f20?OpenDocument> , accessed 19 December 2001

Amnesty International (AI), 16 October 2001, Liberia: International community must address widespread torture

Internet :
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/engAFR340122001?OpenDocument&of=COUNTRIES\LIBERIA?OpenDocument&of=COUNTRIES\LIBERIA> , accessed 6 December 2001

Amnesty International (AI), 20 June 1997, In Search of Safety: the Forcibly Displaced and Human Rights in Africa, AI Index: AFR 01/05/97

Internet :
<http://web.amnesty.org/ai.nsf/Index/AFR010051997?OpenDocument&of=COUNTRIES\SOMALIA> , accessed 28 September 2000

Amnesty International (AI), 29 August 2003, Liberia Recommendations to the Security Council and Special Representative of the Secretary-General

Internet : <http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAFR340182003?open&of=ENGLBR> , accessed 8 September 2003

Amnesty International (AI), 30 April 2001, Liberia: War in Lofa County does not justify killing, torture and abduction

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/1e9af3f44b7f5d43c1256a3f00297c2a?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Amnesty International (AI), 9 April 2002, Liberia: State of emergency signifies a greater need for international involvement in human rights protection

Internet :
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/engAFR340042002?OpenDocument&of=COUNTRIES\LIBERIA?OpenDocument&of=COUNTRIES\LIBERIA> , accessed 15 May 2002

Amnesty International (AI), August 2001, Liberia: Killings, torture and rape continue in Lofa County

Internet :
[http://web.amnesty.org/aidoc/aidoc_pdf.nsf/index/AFR340092001ENGLISH/\\$File/AFR3400901.pdf](http://web.amnesty.org/aidoc/aidoc_pdf.nsf/index/AFR340092001ENGLISH/$File/AFR3400901.pdf) , accessed 6 December 2001

Amnesty International (AI), October 2002, Liberian civilians face human rights abuses at home and across borders

Internet :
<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/engAFR340202002?OpenDocument&of=COUNTRIES\LIBERIA?OpenDocument&of=COUNTRIES\LIBERIA> , accessed 30 October 2002

BBC News, 10 January 2001, "TIMELINE LIBERIA"

Internet : <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/1043567.stm> , accessed 14 January 2003

BBC News, 17 June 2002, Misery deepens for Liberian refugees
Internet : <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/world/africa/2050020.stm> , accessed 31 October 2002

BBC News, 8 May 2002, Heavy fighting rages in Liberia
Internet : <http://www.mail-archive.com/africa@peacelink.it/msg00043.html> , accessed 9 September 2002

Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), 26 August 2003, CAFOD's Liberian partner distributes food near Gbarnga, Liberia
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/480fa8736b88bbc3c12564f6004c8ad5/a93c9801fd473de6c1256d900031962a?OpenDocument> , accessed 1 September 2003

Catholic Relief Services (CRS), 11 June 2002, Emergency food distribution to IDPs in Liberia
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/fcf0b8b0b3e26c3dc1256bd5004447b1?OpenDocument> , accessed 4 November 2002

Children's Aid Direct (CAD), 29 March 2001, Children's Aid Direct summary update: 29 Mar 2001
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/9ba5a29cb49bb243c1256a1e0056beb9?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Church World Service (CWS), 11 April 2003, Immediate ceasefire, humanitarian aid crucial for Liberia
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/7ad0a7d88b25704849256d080081f193?OpenDocument> , accessed 13 May 2003

Church World Service (CWS), 5 February 2002, Liberia Emergency Relief 05 Feb 2002
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/c51eb6658b57182685256b5d005b32a4?OpenDocument> , accessed 16 May 2002

Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), 11 August 2003, The response of DEC agencies and their partners to the Liberia crisis
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/a800695fe6e762a685256d7f0067f08b?OpenDocument> , accessed 12 August 2003

European Union, 28 January 2003, Commission adopts EUR 16 million humanitarian aid plan for Coastal West Africa

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/dcc60ddf6b43e5b4c1256cbc0054e70a?OpenDocument> , accessed 30 April 2003

Global Witness, 18 September 2002, Immediate UN action and embargo on Liberian timber needed to stop conflict in Liberia and safeguard peace in Sierra Leone
Internet : http://www.globalwitness.org/press_releases/display2.php?id=147 , accessed 30 October 2002

Government of Germany, 22 April 2003, Federal Foreign Office makes available 500,000 euro in emergency aid to internal refugees in Liberia
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/0fd686a80eb26c4c1256d13003897ba?OpenDocument> , accessed 11 May 2003

Human Rights Watch (HRW), 17 November 1997, "Liberia's Human Rights Situation Precarious"
Internet : <http://www.hrw.org/press97/nov/libngvt.htm> , accessed 31 August 2000

Human Rights Watch (HRW), 19 July 2002, Deteriorating human rights situation in Liberia
Internet : <http://hrw.org/press/2002/07/liberia-071902.htm> , accessed 31 October 2002

Human Rights Watch (HRW), 1999, 2000 Human Rights Watch World Report: Liberia
Internet : <http://www.hrw.org/wr2k/Africa-05.htm#TopOfPage> , accessed 31 August 2000

Human Rights Watch (HRW), May 2002, Back to the brink: War crimes by Liberian Government and rebels
Internet : <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2002/liberia/> , accessed 15 May 2002

Integrated Regional Information Network for West Africa (IRIN-WA), 10 November 2000, IRIN-WA Weekly Roundup 45 covering the period 4-10 November 2000
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/d562d2909d7b764485256993007b76c0?OpenDocument> , accessed 5 March 2001

Integrated Regional Information Network for West Africa (IRIN-WA), 14 June 2001, IRIN Update 996 of events in West Africa
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/5585004c3e7aea9bc1256a6c002f83f0?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Integrated Regional Information Network for West Africa (IRIN-WA), 14 May 2001, IRIN Update 973 of events in West Africa

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/bf34f03092a84fc985256a4c0076ca05?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Integrated Regional Information Network for West Africa (IRIN-WA), 16 October 2000, Liberia: Fighting displaces thousands

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/b25e50cb940ddb268525697a006206bb?OpenDocument> , accessed 5 March 2001

Integrated Regional Information Network for West Africa (IRIN-WA), 20 July 2000, "Liberia: IRIN Focus on IDPs and refugees"

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/077342c9965585e085256923004cdb84?OpenDocument> , accessed 31 August 2000

Integrated Regional Information Network for West Africa (IRIN-WA), 20 March 2001, IRIN Update 934 of events in West Africa

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/1eb601670b7316f285256a1500709434?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Integrated Regional Information Network for West Africa (IRIN-WA), 22 June 2001, IRIN-WA Weekly Roundup 77 covering the period 16 - 22 Jun 2001

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/c028ae15ef0edaac1256a76004523fb?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Integrated Regional Information Network for West Africa (IRIN-WA), 25 July 2001, IRIN Update 1025 of events in West Africa

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/e5c38ad1f4616493c1256a9500303419?OpenDocument> , accessed 31 July 2001

Integrated Regional Information Network for West Africa (IRIN-WA), 25 May 2001, IRIN-WA Weekly Roundup 73 covering the period 19 - 25 May 2001

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/4e5c90683caced1b85256a5b0050e5de?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Integrated Regional Information Network for West Africa (IRIN-WA), 27 April 2001, IRIN Update 962 of events in West Africa

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/d2799cf0cb134770c1256a3e0032cb56?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Integrated Regional Information Network for West Africa (IRIN-WA), 30 April 2001, IRIN Update 963 of events in West Africa

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/8a5e3ea8bf0dc80e85256a3f00649885?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Integrated Regional Information Network for West Africa (IRIN-WA), 30 October 1998, Weekly Roundup 72

Internet : <http://www.cidi.org/humanitarian/irin/wafrica/98b/0017.html> , accessed 19 July 2002

Integrated Regional Information Network for West Africa (IRIN-WA), 4 July 2001, IRIN Update 1010 of events in West Africa

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/f35c592b30ad048585256a800049d5ac?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Integrated Regional Information Network for West Africa (IRIN-WA), 6 April 2001, IRIN-WA Weekly Roundup 66 covering the period 31 Mar - 6 Apr 2001

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/8bdfa9213663bfa485256a29004d114e?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Integrated Regional Information Network for West Africa (IRIN-WA), 7 February 2001, IRIN Update 905 of events in West Africa

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/5a9044103a559c1c852569ec00696db3?OpenDocument> , accessed 5 March 2001

Integrated Regional Information Network for West Africa (IRIN-WA), June 2001, IRIN Update 987 of events in West Africa

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/2a1915cfb8df419f85256a5e0074f39f?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 10 February 2003, Displaced increase to 7,000 MONROVIA

Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=32211&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 30 April 2003

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 10 February 2003, Liberia: Displaced increase to 7,000

Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=32211&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 3 April 2003

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 10 May 2002, Liberia: At east 40,000 displaced in latest fighting

Internet :

http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=27722&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 14 May 2002

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 11 February 2002, Liberia: Thousands flee towards Monrovia

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/f3d1a15af46c266a49256b5e0024117a?OpenDocument> , accessed 20 February 2002

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 12 August 2003, LIBERIA: Rebels agree to hand over port to peacekeepers

Internet :

http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=35949&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 13 August 2003

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 12 December 2001, Liberia: Aid agencies to set up transit centres

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/9a22bf0036b1d65185256b2000712148?OpenDocument> , accessed 20 December 2001

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 13 February 2003, Fighting reported in southwestern port

Internet :

http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=32281&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 30 April 2003

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 13 June 2002, Liberia: ECOWAS sends team to Liberia

Internet :

http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=28308&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 30 October 2002

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 14 May 2003, Liberia: Peace talks scheduled for 2 June in Ghana

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/318a4b81fa867e6085256d26006e14fd?OpenDocument> , accessed 15 May 2003

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 17 July 2002, Liberia: FAO help for displaced farmers

Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=28859&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 4 November 2002

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 18 February 2002, Liberia: Journalists want emergency off, say crisis may be stage-managed
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/8832370ee38fcbc749256b650011c72c?OpenDocument> , accessed 14 May 2002

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 19 February 2003, Liberia: IDPs complain of forced conscription
Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=32410&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 3 April 2003

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 19 July 2003, LIBERIA: Thousands flee Monrovia's western suburbs
Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=35502&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 21 July 2003

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 2 October 2002, Liberia: NGO warns of grave health risks among IDPs
Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=30206&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 31 October 2002

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 2 September 2003, LIBERIA: Gambians arrive as peacekeepers prepare to extend control
Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=36334&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 3 September 2003

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 21 August 2003, LIBERIA: Continuing fighting threatens 60,000 in Bong County, MSF says
Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=36104&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 1 September 2003

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 21 May 2002, Liberia: Government rejects calls for ceasefire
Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=27870&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 30 October 2002

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 22 March 2002, Liberia: Thousands still need food, shelter

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/8cf6b729edf5937e85256b8400775a1c?OpenDocument> , accessed 15 May 2002

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 24 August 2003, LIBERIA: Thousands displaced by renewed fighting near airport

Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=36155&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 1 September 2003

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 25 April 2002, Liberia: Over 7,200 flee latest fighting

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/1b3fd0648e37e02749256ba7001f24c8?OpenDocument> , accessed 14 May 2002

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 26 August 2003, LIBERIA: New survey indicates 40 percent child malnutrition

Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=36209&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 1 September 2003

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 26 August 2003, LIBERIA: Rebel advance in north forces thousands to flee

Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=36196&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 1 September 2003

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 26 December 2001, Liberia: Relief agencies reiterate SOS for IDPs

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/38b487d9777ea07a49256b2f00039283?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 January 2002

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 27 August 2003, LIBERIA: Boy gunmen go on raping spree among the displaced

Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=36234&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 1 September 2003

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 27 August 2003, LIBERIA: Fighting could disrupt relief activities, agencies warn

Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=36238&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 1 September 2003

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 28 August 2003, LIBERIA:
Uncontrolled gunmen could torpedo fragile peace process
Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=36261&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 29 August 2003

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 28 January 2002, Liberia:
Thousands of IDPs displaced again
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/c1b2219c404a289f85256b4f00759fa6?OpenDocument> , accessed 20 February 2002

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 30 July 2002, Liberia:
Reconciliation conference under way
Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=29099&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 30 October 2002

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 30 November 2001, Liberia: Aid workers strive to maintain contact with IDPs
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/fe3e30071424038d49256b170009d922?OpenDocument> , accessed 6 December 2001

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 31 August 2003, LIBERIA: Briton released, but thousands still held by MODEL
Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=36294&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 2 September 2003

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 31 January 2002, Liberia:
Government allows relief agencies into Klay Town
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/b96953e9d7b4ad2f49256b530019d0fc?OpenDocument> , accessed 16 May 2002

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 4 September 2003, LIBERIA:
Displaced urged to leave schools so classes can resume
Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=36396&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 4 September 2003

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 4 September 2003, Liberia: Exodus from fighting around Totota continues

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/c2f115d21d7b8fa285256d9700735aa8?OpenDocument> , accessed 5 September 2003

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 5 December 2001, Liberia: UN alarmed at humanitarian situation in northwest

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/UNID/909008735439BAB185256B190075D4FF?OpenDocument> , accessed 6 December 2001

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 5 February 2003, 5,000 displaced in renewed fighting

Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=32140&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 29 April 2003

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 5 February 2003, Liberia: 5,000 displaced in renewed fighting

Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=32140&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 3 April 2003

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 6 June 2002, Liberia: Sinje camps still inaccessible

Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=28193&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 1 November 2002

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 6 May 2002, Liberia: Security Council extends sanctions

Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=27628&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 14 May 2002

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 7 August 2003, LIBERIA: Peacekeepers cheered as they move into Monrovia

Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=35857&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 8 August 2003

Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), 8 February 2002, Liberia: Government declares state of emergency

- Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/16a36590ff37d69085256b5a007c6013?OpenDocument> , accessed 20 February 2002
- Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN)**, 9 September 2002, Liberia: Cholera cases reported in Monrovia
 Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=29788&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 1 November 2002
- Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN)**, September 2003, Liberia: Humanitarian information service launched by UN
 Internet :
http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=36318&SelectRegion=West_Africa&SelectCountry=LIBERIA , accessed 2 September 2003
- Inter-Agency Standing Committee - Working Group (IASC-WG)**, 7 March 2002, In-Depth Country Review-Liberia: Background Note (Revised)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**, 12 July 2002, Liberia: Trauma surgery unit to open in Monrovia
 Internet :
<http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/5BYGDF?OpenDocument&style=custofinal> , accessed 4 November 2002
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**, 13 June 2002, Liberia: Emergency aid for lepers
 Internet :
<http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/5B3K2V?OpenDocument&style=custofinal> , accessed 4 November 2002
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**, 15 December 2000, Update No. 36/2000 on ICRC activities in West Africa: Sierra Leone - Guinea - Liberia
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/b968e7f7f22467dbc12569b6005471c4?OpenDocument> , accessed 5 March 2001
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**, 16 June 2003, Liberia: ICRC activities January – May 2003
 Internet :
<http://www.icrc.org/web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/iwpList341/B434ED5B49C71674C1256D47002770C2> , accessed 20 June 2003
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**, 18 January 2001, Liberia: 600 displaced people return to their villages

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/e69568c458b7aa1ec12569d90052eafd?OpenDocument> , accessed 5 March 2001

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 24 May 2002, Liberia – Recent ICRC activities – Feb to May 2002

Internet :
http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/5AUGL8?OpenDocument&style=custo_final , accessed 31 October 2002

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 28 September 2000, "Liberia: ICRC and Liberian Red Cross aid the displaced", from ICRC News 37

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/f25d398360dbecb3c1256968004cd51b?OpenDocument> , accessed 17 January 2003

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 29 August 2001, Liberia: Women: Prime victims of armed conflict

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/0e3d4d27e2d4f1dec1256ab800477256?OpenDocument> , accessed 6 December 2001

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 31 July 2001, Update on ICRC activities in Liberia

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/cbc7da7a29853c84c1256a9c002a24d6?OpenDocument> , accessed 3 August 2001

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 5 July 2002, Liberia: massive increase in aid

Internet :
http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/5BRD5D?OpenDocument&style=custo_final , accessed 4 November 2002

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 7 August 2003, Liberia bulletin 7 Aug 2003

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/409c57e27aa5c51149256d7b0081a688?OpenDocument> , accessed 8 August 2003

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 9 August 2003, Liberia: First convoy of humanitarian aid reaches Monrovia's port area

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/e76d6984e920369749256d7f00038e6a?OpenDocument> , accessed 11 August 2003

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), April 2001, Liberia: Helping displaced people return home

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/9d9262293290a0c385256a02005746e8?OpenDocument> , accessed 5 March 2001

International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), 19 October 2000, Liberia: Population Movements

Internet : http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts00/lrpm00a1.pdf , accessed 5 March 2001

International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), 20 February 2001, Liberia: Humanitarian Assistance Appeal No.01.05/2000 Situation Report No. 2

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/db04851098bc1bcd852569fa0075c0b9?OpenDocument> , accessed 5 March 2001

International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), 29 October 2001, Red Cross provides hope to Liberia's internally displaced

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/06bb8ccae23b37e5c1256af500390f37?OpenDocument> , accessed 6 December 2001

International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), 31 May 2002, Liberia Annual Report: Appeal No. 01.04/2001

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/376eb455cfb8ed1185256bca005c0026?OpenDocument> , accessed 4 November 2002

International Organisation, 24 July 2001, E-mail from International Organisation to NRC Geneva

International Organization for Migration (IOM), 11 October 2002, IOM press briefing notes 11 Oct 2002: Afghanistan, Liberia

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/4da81b10fa0a8471c1256c4f003aebe1?OpenDocument> , accessed 4 November 2002

International Rescue Committee (IRC), 2000, Liberia

Internet :
<http://web.archive.org/web/20010303191912/www.intrescom.org/whatwedo/westafrika/liberia.cfm> , accessed 19 July 2002

International Rescue Committee (IRC), 28 August 2003, IRC expands emergency services in Liberia

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/7dd23d86971297bf85256d9000749c0a?OpenDocument> , accessed 29 August 2003

International Rescue Committee (IRC), 30 September 2002, Health Assessment: Internally Displaced Camps in Liberia
Internet : http://intranet.theirc.org/docs/LiberiaHealth_Assessment.pdf , accessed 31 October 2002

International Rescue Committee (IRC), 7 May 2003, Continued violence in West Africa imperils hundreds of thousands
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/675751ea2b8b036549256d24000210cd?OpenDocument> , accessed 13 May 2003

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), 16 October 2000, "Liberia: Civilians Flee Attacks" in Dispatches No. 80
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/0/5835C7AC73FFF6CE85256983005010CD?OpenDocument&Start=1&Count=1000&ExpandView&StartKey=Angola> , accessed 9 September 2002

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), 6 August 2003, JRS Appeal for Liberia - 6 Aug 2003: Hundreds of thousands of displaced people in need of assistance
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/02ef133863c6008685256d7a00689254?OpenDocument> , accessed 8 August 2003

Kpatindé, Francis, 1996, UNHCR Refugees Magazine, "Liberia: Shaking Off Bad Memories" in 1996 in Review (Issue 106)
Internet :
<http://web.archive.org/web/20000820074019/www.unhcr.ch/pubs/rm106/rm10605.htm> ,
accessed 19 July 2002

Kpatindé, Francis, 1996, UNHCR Refugees Magazine, "So Close Yet So Far" in Internally Displaced Persons (Issue 103)
Internet :
<http://web.archive.org/web/20001024023731/www.unhcr.ch/pubs/rm103/rm10303.htm> ,
accessed 19 July 2002

Lutheran World Federation (LWF), 13 February 2002, Emergency aid needed for Liberians fleeing fighting
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/dfecce1b2a142b2649256b6000061f6d?OpenDocument> , accessed 16 May 2002

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), 11 March 2003, Violence in eastern Liberia sets thousands on the run and forces MSF to stop assistance

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/736da59cfd2fe115c1256ce60048c212?OpenDocument> , accessed 30 April 2003

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), 11 March 2003, Violence in eastern Liberia sets thousands on the run and forces MSF to stop assistance

Internet : <http://www.msf.org/countries/page.cfm?articleid=6772EA18-63C2-41FD-B7DCC1CCC4585E45> , accessed 3 April 2003

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), 17 October 2001, Unprotected civilians in Liberia: MSF briefing to UN Security Council

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/3ed79db3eeb401b7c1256aef0033d361?OpenDocument> , accessed 6 December 2001

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), 19 July 2001, Displaced by fighting, Liberians face severe health conditions in IDP camps

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/b4e28bb08af6ee8085256a8e00716ef3?OpenDocument> , accessed 6 December 2001

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), 21 May 2001, Liberia: Thousands displaced by fighting in northern Lofa

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/73da60a29d68c561c1256a530047f1bd?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), 21 May 2002, Mano River Union humanitarian situation – UN Security Council,

Internet : <http://www.msf.org/countries/page.cfm?articleid=E7D33359-0D9B-48F0-BB929B60730816CD> , accessed 31 October 2002

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), 24 May 2002, Populations affected by war in the Mano River region of West Africa: issues of protection

Internet : <http://www.msf.org/countries/page.cfm?articleid=EB07B3BF-3442-4FDE-A1D6E36464BB6EA9> , accessed 31 October 2002

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), 3 July 2001, "Humanitarian aid insufficient for displaced in northern Lofa"

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/7b47291241c4417085256a84004e3f0e?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), 30 July 2003, Liberia, Monrovia: Treating war wounded in a city under siege

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/79379a5ede8d4c8ac1256d73004ac1db?OpenDocument> , accessed 1 August 2003

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), 30 July 2003, MSF Liberia activity update 30 Jul 2003

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/841eb86180be652385256d7900724470?OpenDocument> , accessed 1 August 2003

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), 31 December 2002, Médecins Sans Frontières issues "Top 10" list of the year's most underreported humanitarian stories

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/adc95658b4e9615c85256ca200734a83?OpenDocument> , accessed 29 April 2003

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), 31 July 2003, Liberia: A cholera outbreak in Monrovia goes unchecked as street fighting continues

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/13337d7ca1df60c7c1256d7400323ee8?OpenDocument> , accessed 4 August 2003

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), April 2003, MSF concerned about the fate of tens of thousands of refugees and internally displaced people trapped by recent fighting in Liberia

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/003ae569756fb21f85256cfb006213f3?OpenDocument> , accessed 23 April 2003

Medical Emergency Relief International (MERLIN), 10 November 2000, Merlin programmes worldwide 10 Nov 2000

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/b3b85ed5f5de5ba2c1256996005c611d?OpenDocument> , accessed 22 January 2003

Medical Emergency Relief International (MERLIN), 21 July 2003, Mortar explosions kill civilians sheltering in Monrovia

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/c311a24257a8273449256d6e000194be?OpenDocument> , accessed 24 July 2003

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)

, 25 October 2000, 7,000 School Kits Delivered to Liberia

- Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/fafdb7f1308dfff48525699000567bba?OpenDocument> , accessed 5 March 2001
- Mercy Corps International (MCI)**, 25 July 2003, A view from Liberia
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/ce4b32912449804ac1256d71002607c7?OpenDocument> , accessed 28 July 2003
- Miner, Larry and Colin Scott**, 1995, "Humanitarian Action and Security in Liberia 1989-1994, Occasional Paper #20" for the Humanitarianism and War Project
 Internet : http://hwproject.tufts.edu/publications/electronic/e_op20.pdf , accessed 22 January 2003
- National Council of Churches**, 28 May 2003, Liberian churches work for peace, plead for Americans to help
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/e507dcd8f179ecb85256d34006fabec?OpenDocument> , accessed 2 June 2003
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)**, 29 August 2003, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) opens refugee camp for 20,000 internally displaced people
 Internet : http://www.nrc.no/pfweb/artikler/eng/Liberia_29.08.03.htm , accessed 1 September 2003
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)**, 30 August 2003, Mission report: Monrovia 21st – 26th august 2003
 Internet : <http://Email from the Norwegian Refugee Council> , accessed 2 September 2003
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)**, October 2001, Training Workshop on the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement - Monrovia, Liberia 23-25 October 2001
 Internet : http://www.idpproject.org/training/reports/Liberia_workshop_2001.pdf , accessed 18 July 2002
- Nowrojee, Binaifer**, 13 October 2000, Telephone conversation between Human Rights Watch Counsel and NRC Geneva
- Nowrojee, Binaifer**, 1998, "Liberia" in Janie Hampton (ed.), Internally Displaced Persons: A Global Survey (Earthscan Publications Limited, London)
- OCHA IDP Unit**, 21 May 2002, OCHA IDP Unit Report on Mission to West Africa, 15-24 April 2002
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/52d62ae9bc b78e6685256bc00067c9e2?OpenDocument> , accessed 3 July 2002

OCHA IDP Unit, 4 November 2002, E-mail from OCHA IDP Unit to NRC Geneva

Oxfam, 13 August 2003, Emergency water equipment en route to Liberia

Internet

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/e45e272bf1e5484985256d800075dcf8?OpenDocument> , accessed 14 August 2003

Oxfam, 27 August 2003, Liberia Update 1: 27 Aug 2003

Internet

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/480fa8736b88bbc3c12564f6004c8ad5/b50f8e9e729440edc1256d8f004a6adf?OpenDocument> , accessed 1 September 2003

Oxfam, 28 August 2003, Liberia: Oxfam scales up work in Monrovia, but insecurity continues outside capital

Internet

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/bb051422426b39a5c1256d900051bea2?OpenDocument> , accessed 29 August 2003

Oxfam, 6 August 2003, Peace and security vital for Liberia aid effort

Internet

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/ee56638390c1e92d85256d7a00622c73?OpenDocument> , accessed 7 August 2003

Pan African News Agency (PANA), 10 October 2000, "Police Deployed to Calm Ethnic Tensions in North-eastern Liberia"

Internet

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/5ebfd9aaa27d09508525697500689fcb?OpenDocument> , accessed 16 October 2000

Pan African News Agency (PANA), 10 October 2000, "Thousands Flee Fresh Fighting in Northern Liberia"

Internet

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/7dfa86840b1146fe852569750068bbd2?OpenDocument> , accessed 16 October 2000

Pan African News Agency (PANA), 11 April 2001, "Ecowas moves to restore peace in Sub-Region"

Internet

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/2aca1a734da397e0c1256a2c00396446?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Pan African News Agency (PANA), 14 February 2001, MSF Assists Civilians Fleeing Fighting in Northern Liberia

Internet

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/c655f20b4fdd9b1f852569f3007120de?OpenDocument> , accessed 5 March 2001

Pan African News Agency (PANA), 19 September 2000, "Thousands of Displaced Liberians Face Starvation"

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/8087b92147cac594c125695f00505b20?OpenDocument> , accessed 19 September 2000

Pan African News Agency (PANA), 25 April 2001, "Liberia: UN Official fears prospect of increased fighting"

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/47b6fa76386b9fa185256a390074d95e?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Reuters, 11 August 2003, Liberia's President Charles Taylor resigns

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/af116b6ff9891a0cc1256d7f0050c267?OpenDocument> , accessed 12 August 2003

Reuters, 14 February 2002, Rumour and plot theories bubble in tense Liberia

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/156f66eaeadeb03c1256b60005208d0?OpenDocument> , accessed 20 February 2002

Save the Children Fund (SCF), 18 September 2002, Liberia emergency update Sep 2002

Internet : <http://www.savechildren.org.uk/sudan/index.html> , accessed 4 November 2002

Save the Children Fund (SCF), 2 August 2001, Save the Children (UK) Emergency Unit Statement: Liberia Jul 2001

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/7859b930df389ccf85256a9c004d288f?OpenDocument> , accessed 3 August 2001

Save the Children Fund (SCF), 22 May 2001, Save the Children (UK) Emergency Unit Statement: Liberia 22 May 2001

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/e7eda6c91a5da71785256a54005917b0?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Save the Children Fund (SCF), 24 November 2000, Liberia Emergency Update Nov 2000

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/6f071c68704a6bc4852569a1005c3033?OpenDocument> , accessed 5 March 2001

Save the Children Fund (SCF), 6 April 2001, Save the Children (UK) Emergency Unit Statement on Liberia 06 Apr 2001

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/1049f01027a2db0ac1256a29004d1a33?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

Scott, Colin, 1998, "Liberia: A Nation Displaced" in R. Cohen and F.M. Deng (eds.), The Forsaken People (The Brookings Institution, Washington D.C.)

UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), 9 March 2001, UNAMSIL Press Briefing, 9 Mar 2001

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/d41051f03e97e78c85256a0d005d50fe?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

UN News Service, 21 June 2002, Liberia: UN refugee agency appeals for release of nurses abducted by rebels

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/77a00e186bd8a52685256bdf00537bb7?OpenDocument> , accessed 31 October 2002

UN News Service, 31 July 2003, Liberia: UN envoy calls for 'swift action' to help thousands displaced by fighting

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/6ecd5b336b573c6c49256d7500062a6f?OpenDocument> , accessed 4 August 2003

UN News Service, 5 August 2003, Liberia: As peacekeepers arrive, UN gears up to help avert humanitarian crisis in Monrovia

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/9333249806c0f08149256d7a000716ee?OpenDocument> , accessed 5 August 2003

UN News Service, 5 June 2003, Sierra Leone: Prosecutor of UN-backed court disappointed Taylor evades arrest

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/de7df1fdd1c1bdac885256d3c0070025b?OpenDocument> , accessed 11 June 2003

UN News Service, 5 May 2003, UN relief agency demands security guarantees from Liberian government

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/9464b061e311fa4985256d1d00762d6d?OpenDocument> , accessed 15 May 2003

UN News Service, 7 February 2003, Aid, access to western Liberia cut off due to heavy fighting – UN

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/be5beaf3db e5fc9049256cc9000714ff?OpenDocument> , accessed 3 April 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 11 June 2003, Liberia: Taylor calls for UN peace-keeping force

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/a861c92f47e9 ae4dc1256d42004294ea?OpenDocument> , accessed 11 June 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 13 August 2003, Liberia Humanitarian Situation Update No. 32

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/aee4c5108605 77ce85256d810066fff6?OpenDocument> , accessed 13 August 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 14 September 2002, OCHA Liberia Weekly Situation Report: 01-14 Sep 2002

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/c18159dd0a 01ebc6c1256c38002d5901?OpenDocument> , accessed 1 November 2002

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 15 March 2003, OCHA Liberia Weekly Situation Report: 08 - 15 Mar 2003

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/671312179a 63bf38c1256cec0047ffd1?OpenDocument> , accessed 30 April 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 18 March 2003, Renewed fighting in Liberia displaces more civilians

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/9bcd32623c 5b9693c1256ced004a0391?OpenDocument> , accessed 29 April 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 19 July 2003, Liberia Humanitarian Situation Update No. 18

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/48ccb2f461 df0c08c1256d6a00203e24?OpenDocument> , accessed 21 July 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 19 May 2003, Key timber port of Harper falls to rebels

- Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/ae0f8e34d06e42e485256d2b006900ac?OpenDocument> , accessed 19 May 2003
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)**, 20 January 1998, UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Liberia: 1998
- Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/9c60fa02e9939e85c12564f60053c47a/cb5ea8b2a3ecac0ac125659200419535?OpenDocument> , accessed 31 August 2000
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)**, 20 November 2002, Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Liberia 2003
- Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/0a1a2e040e0518dbc1256c6f0038623b?OpenDocument> , accessed 29 April 2003
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)**, 21 July 2003, Liberia: Situation in Monrovia becoming desperate
- Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/b4b0106ed5415dd485256d6a005897f9?OpenDocument> , accessed 25 July 2003
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)**, 22 July 2003, UN Coordinator expresses deep concern about desperate humanitarian situation in Liberia
- Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/84241126c56f1cbc85256d6b00703b54?OpenDocument> , accessed 24 July 2003
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)**, 23 April 2002, OCHA Liberia Weekly Situation Report: 17 – 23 Apr 2002
- Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/3ac1bfaea22c5802c1256ba70035db3e?OpenDocument> , accessed 16 May 2002
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)**, 23 March 2001, United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for West Africa 2001
- Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/9ca65951ee22658ec125663300408599/ffd7a88bb538f8e0c1256a18005929f4?OpenDocument> , accessed 31 July 2001
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)**, 23 May 2002, OCHA Liberia Weekly Situation Report: 17-23 May 2002
- Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/1210f91a718bfd5149256bc7000af75b?OpenDocument> , accessed 31 October 2002

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 25 July 2003, Scarcity of water, food, and security threatens Monrovia

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/c04afe46709fdcecc85256d6e005fe2fc?OpenDocument> , accessed 31 July 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 25 March 2003, Displacement in central Liberia could overburden humanitarian resources

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/4ff96037747413c385256cf4005c8ddf?OpenDocument> , accessed 30 April 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 26 August 2003, UN works on gaining access outside Monrovia

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/480fa8736b88bbc3c12564f6004c8ad5/3b3d608e7536638b85256d8e0074148c?OpenDocument> , accessed 1 September 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 26 July 2003, Liberia Humanitarian Situation Update No. 22

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/b35187bf2f4e0f3085256d71004b72bb?OpenDocument> , accessed 31 July 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 26 March 2003, Liberia: IDPs panic as fighting nears capital

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/c62c8363006538c685256cf5006f1a2?OpenDocument> , accessed 30 April 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 27 March 2003, Liberia: Government to screen male IDPs

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/728470ae4748d40e49256cf7000f3392?OpenDocument> , accessed 29 April 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 28 July 2003, Liberia Humanitarian Situation Update No. 23

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/55c0fd90b0812106c1256d7200308029?OpenDocument> , accessed 1 August 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 29 August 2003, Liberia Humanitarian Situation Update No. 38

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/45e0fcfb9673eede49256d940003d889?OpenDocument> , accessed 1 September 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 29 July 2003,
Displacement in Liberia on the rise again as fighting spreads
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/0479af8222be622885256d720055368d?OpenDocument> , accessed 1 August 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 3 June 2003,
Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Liberia 2003: Mid-Year Review May 2003
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/9ca65951ee22658ec125663300408599/35fedb7510be8e5ec1256d39005c6704?OpenDocument> , accessed 4 June 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 30 April
2003, Humanitarian Voices - OCHA Regional Support Office for West Africa, Issue No.
2, 2003
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/0411c0cdc22fca5f49256d190025a09c?OpenDocument> , accessed 6 May 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 30 August
2002, OCHA Liberia Weekly Situation Report: 24-30 Aug 2002
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/04287371dca0c2fbc1256c370041c01e?OpenDocument> , accessed 31 October 2002

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 30 November
2002, OCHA Liberia Humanitarian Situation Report Nov 2002
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/ff09234ba4105b4cc1256c8d0058702c?OpenDocument> , accessed 29 April 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 31 July 2003,
Liberia Humanitarian Situation Update No. 25
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/eb1f71144447955c85256d74006fe7be?OpenDocument> , accessed 4 August 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 31 July 2003,
Liberia: Shortages of fuel and food compound crisis
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/beecbcad6e5fd1dc85256d740053a2b7?OpenDocument> , accessed 1 August 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 31 July 2003,
Liberia: Starving civilians risk bullets to scavenge for food

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/9c8b2bde7af3e3a49256d750007a437?OpenDocument> , accessed 4 August 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 31 March 2002, Liberia humanitarian situation report Mar 2002

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/d6e15b90b2203a67c1256b92004231ae?OpenDocument> , accessed 14 May 2002

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 31 May 2002,
OCHA Liberia Weekly Situation Report: 24-31 May 2002

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/a47e66ecaa3390bac1256bce0044966a?OpenDocument> , accessed 31 October 2002

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 4 August 2003, Liberia Humanitarian Situation Update No. 27

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/acfcf90e86e0872349256d7900088ec5?OpenDocument> , accessed 6 August 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 4 August 2003, Liberia Humanitarian Situation Update No. 27

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/acfcf90e86e0872349256d7900088ec5?OpenDocument> , accessed 5 August 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 5 April 2003,
Liberia: Monthly Humanitarian Situation Report - March 2003

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/9a8cc3676070c68585256cff0076981f?OpenDocument> , accessed 6 May 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 5 August 2003, Liberia Humanitarian Situation Update No. 28

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/0aec235d9669514a85256d79006f5057?OpenDocument> , accessed 6 August 2003

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), 5 August 2003, UN OCHA: Launch of revised Humanitarian Appeal for Liberia

- Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/10b0fb3dd4d391a0c1256d79004e91ab?OpenDocument> , accessed 6 August 2003
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)**, 5 November 2001, OCHA West Africa Newsletter No. 1
- Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/6659648301b12fc585256afd00619edc?OpenDocument> , accessed 6 December 2001
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)**, 5 September 2003, Liberia Humanitarian Situation Update No. 39
- Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/480fa8736b88bbc3c12564f6004c8ad5/8b3310ab0e77613149256d9a0081b7af?OpenDocument> , accessed 8 September 2003
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)**, 6 August 2003, Revision of the Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Liberia 2003
- Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/80b9138f6909e8bcc1256d7800594614?OpenDocument> , accessed 7 August 2003
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)**, 6 August 2003, United Nations humanitarian agencies request \$69 million in emergency assistance for Liberia
- Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/20effc5ab2778a3b85256d7a006541bc?OpenDocument> , accessed 7 August 2003
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)**, 7 August 2003, Liberia Humanitarian Situation Update No. 29
- Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/96344afe6251c3fa85256d7b00589897?OpenDocument> , accessed 8 August 2003
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)**, 7 March 2002, OCHA Liberia Weekly Situation Report: 22 Feb – 7 Mar 2002
- Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/c850deeda267ecb085256b75006fb834?OpenDocument> , accessed 16 May 2002
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)**, 9 April 2003, Liberia's humanitarian needs increase, as security situation deteriorates
- Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/e5cc4ac45d13b59885256d030053f615?OpenDocument> , accessed 13 May 2003

UN Secretary-General, 12 September 1997, Final Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia, S/1997/712

Internet

:
<http://web.archive.org/web/20011118110848/www.un.org/Docs/sc/reports/1997/s1997712.htm> , accessed 22 January 2003

UN Secretary-General, 2 March 2001, United Nations to send Inter-Agency Mission to West Africa

Internet

:
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/4ac09c4e8a4cd58685256a0300757ff6?OpenDocument> , accessed 5 March 2001

United Nations, 26 November 2001, Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal 2002: Liberia

Internet : <http://www.reliefweb.int/appeals/2002/files/lib02.pdf> , accessed 29 November 2001

United Nations, November 2000, Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeals Process Strategy Paper for West Africa

Internet : <http://www.reliefweb.int/appeals/2001/waf01.pdf> , accessed 1 February 2001

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 12 May 2001, UNICEF Liberia Situation Report April/May 2001

Internet

:
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/259371e280ec171585256a4e005211de?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 28 August 2003, Liberia: PhotoQuotes - the voices of Liberian children & women caught in conflict

Internet

:
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/3c8cbd903547f071c1256d900052d03c?OpenDocument> , accessed 29 August 2003

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 29 May 2002, UNICEF Humanitarian Action: Liberia Donor Update

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 7 March 2002, UNICEF Humanitarian Action: Liberia donor update 07 Mar 2002

United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (UN DHA), 23 October 1996, UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Liberia: September 1995 to August 1996

Internet

:
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/9c60fa02e9939e85c12564f60053c47a/cd0e7b657eecfa88c12563cc0054a358?OpenDocument> , accessed 6 March 2001

United Nations Department of Public Information (UN DPI), 4 May 2001, "Tighter Security Council sanctions against Liberia set to take effect on Monday"

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/000ed0e25e3e1bdf85256a420069f8a3?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 12 August 2002, Human rights initiative to help protect displaced people in Liberia

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/8c64932a6a34716785256c130053abca?OpenDocument> , accessed 4 November 2002

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 26 September 2000, E-mail from UNDP Monrovia to NRC Geneva

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 15 May 2003, Lubbers urges political solution for Liberia's worsening humanitarian situation

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/e6886de1a75f519485256d27006accbe?OpenDocument> , accessed 20 May 2003

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 17 February 2003, Thousands flee Liberian conflict; UNHCR tries to repatriate Sierra Leoneans

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/422164c9537a3524c1256cd1003124e0?OpenDocument> , accessed 30 April 2003

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 17 February 2003, Thousands flee Liberian conflict; UNHCR tries to repatriate Sierra Leoneans

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/422164c9537a3524c1256cd1003124e0?OpenDocument> , accessed 28 May 2003

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 2 October 2001, Refugees by numbers 2001

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/29add271b5b471d085256adb004fd0f1?OpenDocument> , accessed 6 December 2001

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 2 September 2002, Five NGO nurses released by Liberian rebels

Internet :

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/4e91dd84cad30f249256c28007f1878?OpenDocument> , accessed 31 October 2002

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 21 February 2002, Renewed fighting in Liberia leads to second mass displacement in two weeks

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/87e05a1a3e3285dc85256b670069b2b0?OpenDocument> , accessed 14 May 2002

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 3 March 2003, Thousands flee attack on transit camp in eastern Liberia

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/7a2b1606353c046f85256cde00734b9b?OpenDocument> , accessed 30 April 2003

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 3 September 2003, Liberia: UNHCR investigates new displacement north-east of Monrovia

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/480fa8736b88bbc3c12564f6004c8ad5/194cf2f6bda3c48185256d9600679fb1?OpenDocument> , accessed 3 September 2003

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 31 May 2000, Refugees and Others of Concern to UNHCR: Statistical Overview - First Quarter 2000 Report

Internet :
<http://web.archive.org/web/20001018130223/www.unhcr.ch/statist/ov00q1/text.htm> ,
accessed 19 July 2002

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 4 September 2003, UNHCR sends urgent aid to newly displaced in central Liberia

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/fa2dbf1d56f8f068c1256d970052aea5?OpenDocument> , accessed 4 September 2003

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), September 1999, Country Profile: Liberia

Internet :
<http://web.archive.org/web/20001109155800/www.unhcr.ch/world/afri/liberia.htm> ,
accessed 19 July 2002

United Nations Human Rights Committee, 12 September 2003, UNHCR briefing notes: Liberia, Chad, Angola

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/9436e2d075a1f074c1256d9f003dfd4e?OpenDocument> , accessed 12 September 2003

United Nations Security Council (UN SC), 15 December 2000, Report of the Panel of Experts appointed pursuant to Security Council resolution 1306 (2000), para 19, in relation to Sierra Leone (S/2000/1195)

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/vID/37871333B6418C26C12569CA00478F5F?OpenDocument> , accessed 22 January 2001

United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UN SSCN), 26 July 2002, Report on the nutrition situation of refugees and displaced populations – Issue No. 38
Internet : <http://www.reliefweb.int/library/documents/2002/unscn-rnis38-26jul.pdf> , accessed 1 November 2002

United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UN SSCN), 29 August 2003, Report on the nutrition situation of refugees and displaced populations - Issue No. 42
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/7c5d62b2e84f5612c1256d91004e6ae8?OpenDocument> , accessed 3 September 2003

US Agency for International Development (USAID), 13 August 2003, Liberia: Complex Emergency Situation Report #6 (FY 2003)
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/25bd990437ff7ce185256d8100738471?OpenDocument> , accessed 13 August 2003

US Agency for International Development (USAID), 13 August 2003, Liberia: Complex Emergency Situation Report #6 (FY 2003)
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/25bd990437ff7ce185256d8100738471?OpenDocument> , accessed 14 August 2003

US Agency for International Development (USAID), 1998, USAID FY 1998 Congressional Presentation
Internet : <http://www.usaid.gov/pubs/cp98/afr/countries/lr.htm> , accessed 31 August 2000

US Agency for International Development (USAID), 2000, Liberia: Congressional Presentation FY 2000
Internet : <http://www.usaid.gov/pubs/cp2000/afr/liberia.html> , accessed 18 September 2000

US Agency for International Development (USAID), 27 August 2003, Liberia: Complex Emergency Situation Report #8 (FY 2003)
Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/c20f0219e38c264085256d8f007635db?OpenDocument> , accessed 1 September 2003

US Agency for International Development (USAID), 3 October 2001, Mano River Countries Complex Emergency Situation Report #1 (FY 2001)

- Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/cc960ceb32bfe98c85256ada00762110?OpenDocument> , accessed 6 December 2001
- US Agency for International Development (USAID)**, 9 October 2002, Mano River Countries (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) – Complex Emergency Situation Report #1 (FY 2003)
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/a8e589aa8cc100cc85256c4d0065b468?OpenDocument> , accessed 30 October 2002
- U.S. Committee for Refugees (USCR)**, 1997, World Refugee Survey 1997 (Washington, D.C.)
 Internet : <http://www.refugees.org> , accessed 12 July 2002
- U.S. Committee for Refugees (USCR)**, 1998, World Refugee Survey 1998 (Washington, D.C.)
 Internet : <http://www.refugees.org> , accessed 9 June 2002
- U.S. Committee for Refugees (USCR)**, 2000, 2000 Country Report: Liberia
 Internet : <http://www.refugees.org/world/countryrpt/africa/2000/liberia.htm> , accessed 18 July 2002
- U.S. Committee for Refugees (USCR)**, 28 August 2000, "Mid-Year 2000: Liberia: Lingering Instability"
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/7a33d3a968faae5b8525694900774e7f?OpenDocument> , accessed 31 August 2000
- U.S. Committee for Refugees (USCR)**, August 2001, 2001 Mid-Year Country Report: Liberia
 Internet : http://www.refugees.org/world/countryrpt/africa/Mid_countryrpt01/Liberia.htm
 accessed 6 December 2001
- U.S. Committee for Refugees (USCR)**, November 1999, Worldwide Refugee Information, "Future Unknown: Liberians Face Fragile Transition to Peace"
 Internet : http://www.refugees.org/world/articles/liberia_rr99_10.htm , , accessed 4 September 2000
- U.S. Department of State (U.S. DOS)**, 23 February 2001, Liberia: Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2000 [released by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor]
 Internet : <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2000/af/845.htm> , accessed 5 March 2001

U.S. Department of State (U.S. DOS), 26 February 1999, Liberia Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 1998, released by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor

Internet : http://www.state.gov/www/global/human_rights/1998_hrp_report/liberia.html ,
accessed 31 August 2000

World Food Programme (WFP), 13 July 2001, WFP Emergency Report No. 28 of 2001

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/c88d98bde0a5b70985256a8800606b01?OpenDocument> , accessed 31 July 2001

World Food Programme (WFP), 14 March 2003, WFP Emergency Report No. 11 of 2003

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/e518fe8f39ecf88885256ce9007154f6?OpenDocument> , accessed 30 April 2003

World Food Programme (WFP), 15 February 2002, WFP Emergency Report No. 07 of 2002

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/901c5e6e36a6be2585256b610069675c?OpenDocument> , accessed 14 May 2002

World Food Programme (WFP), 15 June 2001, WFP Emergency Report No. 24 of 2001

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/55143d7c88a7bca885256a6c005b0702?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

World Food Programme (WFP), 20 July 2001, WFP Emergency Report No. 29 of 2001

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/003862504a29c5c085256a8f005c896b?OpenDocument> , accessed 31 July 2001

World Food Programme (WFP), 23 November 2001, WFP Emergency Report No. 47 of 2001: Liberia

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/5a7f413bc8e02df8c1256b10003e5622?OpenDocument> , accessed 6 December 2001

World Food Programme (WFP), 25 July 2003, WFP Emergency Report No. 30 of 2003

Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/24930412a6770a8685256d6e005e25a6?OpenDocument> , accessed 28 July 2003

World Food Programme (WFP), 25 May 2001, WFP Emergency Report No. 21 of 2001

Internet : <http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/bc676bc5d202e56785256a57006a7f28?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

World Food Programme (WFP), 25 October 2002, WFP Emergency Report No. 43 of 2002

Internet : http://www.wfp.org/newsroom/subsections/emergencies_report.asp?id=97 , accessed 24 January 2003

World Food Programme (WFP), 29 June 2001, WFP Emergency Report No. 26 of 2001

Internet : <http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/4b0f22760315430785256a7a00667575?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

World Food Programme (WFP), 31 July 2003, WFP Emergency Report No. 31 of 2003

Internet : <http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/64436551449651da85256d74006862cf?OpenDocument> , accessed 4 August 2003

World Food Programme (WFP), 31 May 2000, Field Operations: Liberia

Internet : <http://web.archive.org/web/20010430190751/www.wfp.org/liberia/> , accessed 19 July 2002

World Food Programme (WFP), 31 May 2002, WFP Emergency Report No. 22 of 2002

Internet : http://www.wfp.org/newsroom/subsections/emergencies_report.asp?id=75 , accessed 30 October 2002

World Food Programme (WFP), 4 April 2003, WFP Emergency Report No. 14 of 2003

Internet : <http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/8aa0be294a2ae14885256cfe006f5a52?OpenDocument> , accessed 23 April 2003

World Food Programme (WFP), 5 February 2002, WFP food aid reaches thousands of internally displaced persons in Liberia

Internet : <http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/65e34ff17060466ec1256b5d0030735d?OpenDocument> , accessed 20 February 2002

World Food Programme (WFP), 5 May 2003, WFP demands security guarantees in Liberia

- Internet :
http://www.wfp.org/newsroom/subsections/preview.asp?content_item_id=1109&item_id=652§ion=13 , accessed 5 May 2003
- World Food Programme (WFP)**, 6 July 2001, WFP Emergency Report No. 27 of 2001
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/ff065752a524b6c585256a81006916bd?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001
- World Food Programme (WFP)**, 7 December 2001, WFP Emergency Report No. 49 of 2001
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/bfd81000a772d3aa85256b1b005c64d3?OpenDocument> , accessed 20 December 2001
- World Food Programme (WFP)**, 9 March 2001, WFP Emergency Report No. 10 of 2001
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/66b9d3fac6c7685a85256a0a0067c85a?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001
- World Food Programme (WFP)**, August 2001, WFP delivers food aid to 30,000 Liberians sheltering in Bong county
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/ff5ea2a5376b569185256a9c0068b465?OpenDocument> , accessed 6 December 2001
- World Food Programme (WFP)**, June 2001, WFP Emergency Report No. 22 of 2001
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/bfa69aad31ad009885256a5e00642c96?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001
- World Health Organisation (WHO)**, 26 August 2003, WHO Liberia daily report 26 Aug 2003
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/480fa8736b88bbc3c12564f6004c8ad5/2bb810b74e8735b785256d8f0058c3d1?OpenDocument> , accessed 1 September 2003
- World Health Organisation (WHO)**, 31 August 2002, WHO Liberia Situation Report No. 6
 Internet : <http://www.who.int/disasters/country.cfm?countryID=36&DocType=2> , accessed 30 October 2002
- World Health Organisation (WHO)**, 31 May 2002, Liberia Situation Report No. 4

- Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/4cc6e15fb4720b0cc1256c2f004b85d6?OpenDocument> , accessed 4 November 2002
- World Relief**, 6 August 2003, Liberia: A nation in chaos
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/20f25651b3ec838e85256d7a0071fe82?OpenDocument> , accessed 7 August 2003
- World Vision**, 12 February 2002, Liberia: World Vision helps fleeing victims of war
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/8df0480ed3a88fe449256b5f0021d594?OpenDocument> , accessed 16 May 2002
- World Vision**, 2 September 2003, Liberia: Food distributions, supplementary feeding, health clinics
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/VOCHARUAllLatestEmergencyReports/752567784E7E294B49256D95002A3EB1> , accessed 3 September 2003
- World Vision**, 2 September 2003, Liberia: Immunizations of women and children resume at Blamacee IDP camp
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/480fa8736b88bbc3c12564f6004c8ad5/ef70f77176502ae349256d95002a9f40?OpenDocument> , accessed 3 September 2003
- World Vision**, 2 September 2003, Liberia: World Vision/UNICEF supplementary feeding center in Morris Farm
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/VOCHARUAllLatestEmergencyReports/8F2FAFA61261063449256D95002A6FE2> , accessed 3 September 2003
- World Vision**, 20 August 2002, UNICEF, World Vision Liberia sign deal to help IDPs
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/f303799b16d2074285256830007fb33f/bdfc93f7ebef6ed85256c1b0073b623?OpenDocument> , accessed 4 November 2002
- World Vision**, 21 February 2003, Liberia: World Vision distributes food to IDPs
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/fa687d87dc4f628749256cd4000b0059?OpenDocument> , accessed 30 April 2003
- World Vision**, 28 August 2003, Liberia: Thousands receive first food aid in four months
 Internet :
<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/86883b35c46be19749256d91000fd60f?OpenDocument> , accessed 1 September 2003

World Vision, 29 May 2001, "Transport, soap, bedsheets & medicine: World Vision responds to growing numbers of displaced in Liberia"

Internet

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/Rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/39722157041ce71085256a5d006d0d4c?OpenDocument> , accessed 10 July 2001

World Vision, 30 July 2003, World Vision Liberia update

Internet

<http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/6686f45896f15dbc852567ae00530132/71ce09e8b976b97e49256d730020f346?OpenDocument> , accessed 4 August 2003