



**SITUATION IN LIBERIA
SITREP 07
2 July 2003**

General

I. Coordination Meeting

The first emergency IDP coordination meeting after the renewed armed conflict in the city of Monrovia on 24 June 2003 was convened on Tuesday 1 July 2003. The meeting centered on the creation of an enabling atmosphere for humanitarian aid workers to serve IDPs in the country. Below is the summary of the minutes of the meeting.

A. Summary of Minutes:

1. Security Briefing

- Sporadic shooting is still continuing in and around Monrovia, as armed men continue to roam in residential areas and harass civilians.
- There has been extensive looting of vehicles, drugs, food, non-food items, and other logistical supplies in the premises of non-governmental organizations. The NGOs affected include LNRCS, Christian Ministries, World Vision, Africare, MERCI, GTZ, MERLIN, LWS, and LUSH. Two vehicles procured by WHO for use by the National AIDS Control Programme and Environmental Health were also looted.

2. Decisions Taken during the meeting:

- Since gunmen are still harassing humanitarian aid workers and looting vehicles or logistical supplies, it is still unsafe to provide humanitarian aid on a large scale in all the IDP sites in and around Monrovia.
- A 3-man delegation from the interagency coordination committee is to meet with the Minister of Justice, Minister of Defense and the Director of Police to stress the need for security protection for humanitarian aid workers. The delegation comprises: LRRRC (Chair), OCHA (Member), World Vision (Member).
- Humanitarian agencies are to submit lists of vehicles, equipment and other logistical items looted for onward transmission to the Liberian Government.
- In the light of the depleted logistical resources through looting, humanitarian agencies are advised to collaborate in providing basic services.
- Rapid Interagency Assessment of new IDP sites was scheduled for Tuesday, 01 July 2003. The assessment team will meet at LRRRC at 9:00 a.m. and start to work at 10:00 a.m.
- The National Drug Service (NDS) has not yet been looted, and aid agencies may still get some drugs on the quota basis.

II. Interagency Rapid Assessment of New IDP Sites

On Tuesday, 01 July 2003, Interagency Rapid Assessment of new IDP site established as a result of the renewed fight of 24 June 2003 was conducted in and around Monrovia. Eight (8) sites were identified mainly in the northeastern and eastern parts of Monrovia.

The general condition of the IDPs was rated as fair. However, unless the security situation improves for the resumption of humanitarian aid workers to render services the condition of the IDPs will deteriorate. Most of the sites visited had need for food, shelter and none food items. With the exception of three (3) the rest of the five (5) sites assessed had no organized health services. In these five sites, health workers (themselves IDPs) render voluntary service with IDPs purchasing their area drugs.

All of the sites visited have acute water and sanitation needs. Diarrhea cases are on the increase in the centers although no data was provided.

**Joint Humanitarian Rapid Needs Assessment of New IDP Sites
1 July 2003**

Participants were: UNICEF, WHO, Save the Children, CONCERN, IRC, LWS/WF, MOH

<i>CENTER</i>	<i>POP</i>	<i>HEALTH</i>	<i>WATSAN</i>	<i>SHELTER</i>	<i>FOOD</i>	<i>None food items</i>
SOS	4,000	No health care provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate toilet facilities • inadequate drinking water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for shelter 	Acute Need	Need
Baptist Seminary	Most returned home					
Baptist Retreat Camp Falconer	290	No health care provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate drinking water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate 	Acute Need	Needed
Kendeja High School	2,812	Kendeja Community clinic; but needs drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hand pump • no latrines • hygiene promotion by Smile Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional shelters needed 	Acute Need	Needed
Watch Tower Jehova Witness	200	Presence of a physician and drug supplied by Jehova's Witness Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate drinking water and latrine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate 	Adequate	Adequate
Soul Clinic & 6 Satelites Centers	12,350	No health care provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hand pump, inadequate • no latrines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute need 	Acute need	Needed
Greater Refuge Temple Front Street	1,400	Served by MERLIN at Newport Junior High School IDP Center.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate drinking water • Adequate latrines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate 	Acute needed	Needed
Masonic Temple Benson Street	9,891	MERLIN	Acute Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs improvement 	Needs to be improved	Needed

- The IDPs 10, 000 in number, in the D. Tweh High school in New Kru Tow on Bushrod did not move during the recent fighting. Their situation is very desperate. The crude mortality rate in this center is about 4 per 10,000 per day. MSF/B have resumed running a mobile clinic to cater to the health need of this population. The Redemption Hospital near by, which was luckily not looted will resume OPD service under the sponsorship of MSF/B. Malnutrition of about 20-25 % in the under five years of age was also reported.
- MSF/B reported at the Health Sector Coordination meeting on 2 July 2003, 1 measles case at the Soniwen Clinic in Central Monrovia and 3 cases at the Clara Town Clinic, located on the Bushrod Island.
- The Ministry of Health reported an increase in global malnutrition in communities in Monrovia, although figures were not provided

III. Diarrheal Situation in Monrovia

- During the week 25 of the year 2003 (17 –22 June) there were 245 new admissions at the cholera unit at the JFK Medical Center with a mortality rate of 3.3%. Similarly, during week 26 (23-29 June) there were 210 new admissions with 1.1% mortality rate. Fifty percent of all admissions were from Bushrod Island and Central Monrovia.
- MSF/B has proposed to open two new diarrheal units in Central Monrovia and one on Bushrod Island within the next 10 days. Additionally, MSF/B has contracted the services of a local drama group to carry out sensitization on the control of diarrhea in the IDP Centers on Bushrod Island.
- WHO has proposed to the Ministry of Health to carry out mass chlorination in and around Monrovia. Resources will be required to facilitate the movement of the Ministry of Health Staff during the chlorination exercise. Thus far no organization has offered to provide the resources.

IV. WHO's INTERVENTIONS

- Rapid Assessment on 28 June 2003 and sharing information with partners. This prompted the hosting of the IDP Coordination Meeting on 30 June 2003
- Provided one emergency basic unit to SOS Children's Village and St. Stephen Episcopal Church IDP Centers on Sunday, 29 June 2003
- Provided 1000 ORS sachets and 100 liters of ringer's lactate for MERLIN diarrheal units on 1 July 2003
- Provided 150 kg of chlorine and 1000 sachets of ORS for MSF/B diarrheal units, on 2 July 2003

V. Observations/Recommendations

- The current absence of the UN Security Officer and the UN Designated Officer from the country has created a leadership gap, and consequently intensified the apprehensions of the humanitarian aid workers.
- Security situation continues to be very risky and volatile
- Humanitarian aid activities have been rapidly crippled by the deteriorating security situation; but some aid agencies are still striving to provide some essential services with very limited resources.
- Humanitarian agencies should intensify their advocacy role by informing the international community about the growing state of insecurity in the country
- The WATSAN facilities in some of the new IDP sites are either deplorable or non-existent.
- Diarrhoea/cholera epidemic is imminent in and around Monrovia.