



DISASTER CASE REPORT

Agency for
International
Development

Washington D.C.
20523

LIBERIA - Accident

Date: October 6, 1982 (FY 83)

Location: Mano River, northern Grand Cape Mount County, 100 miles north of Monrovia

No. Dead: 46 confirmed, 50 others presumed dead

No. Affected: 200

Damage: Fifteen dwellings were crushed, household and personal effects of 200 miners buried

The Disaster

Following torrential rains in the northern part of Grand Cape Mount County about 100 miles north of Monrovia, a landslide buried large portions of the No Way Mining Camp of the National Iron Ore Company. The landslide, consisting of mud, talus, and debris, swept through the camp at three o'clock in the morning, engulfing the barracks and other facilities which housed the 200 miners and family members who worked in the camp. Forty-six bodies were recovered from the debris, 31 people were seriously injured, and 50 people never found were presumed dead.

Action Taken by the Government of Liberia (GOL)

The GOL responded promptly to the situation at the mining camp. Declaring the incident a national disaster, the GOL Head of State immediately dispatched military and police units to the area to assist in rescue and clean-up operations. When he flew to the scene himself later that day, the Head of State announced that the nation would observe two days of mourning; he also named the Minister of Defense head of relief efforts at the site.

The GOL Army Air Reconnaissance Unit was deployed to transport the severely injured to JFK Hospital in Monrovia, while the less seriously injured were treated at Mano River Hospital and the camp medical unit.

Recovery operations were directed by the National Iron Ore Company Administrative Manager, who organized a team of doctors, local citizens, mine officials, and the military to assess personnel and equipment needs and design plans to shelter and care for the displaced survivors.

The Liberian Red Cross dispatched a rescue team with clothing, hospital gowns, and first aid supplies to the mining camp. A Red Cross nurse accompanied the injured during air transit to Monrovia. The Red Cross also donated gauze, adhesive plaster, bandages, hospital gowns, and clothing to the JFK Hospital in Monrovia. In addition to the Red Cross, local civic associations conducted blood drives for the injured, and several private businesses contributed unspecified sums to the relief effort. The Liberian Airline Association contributed \$900; the Indian Association of Liberia donated \$5,000; the International Church in Monrovia contributed \$500; the Liberia Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention donated \$300; the Lebanese community of Bong Mines donated \$500; the National Muslim Council donated \$500; the Rotary Club donated \$500; and the Liberian Embassy in Kenya contributed \$905.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

The American Ambassador to Liberia, William L. Swing, upon learning of the disaster at Mano River, sent a message of condolence to the Head of State and offered the assistance of the USG. A two-member team was dispatched from the U.S. Embassy to make an assessment and identify areas in which the USG could provide assistance. Based on information supplied by the Embassy and GOL assessments, Ambassador Swing declared the Mano River mining camp landslide a disaster on October 7 and utilized his disaster authority to provide a cash grant of \$25,000 to assist the victims. The USG contribution, made to the GOL National Disaster Relief Fund, was used to provide food, shelter, and blankets.....\$25,000

TOTAL \$25,000

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

None reported.

Assistance Provided by the International Community

International Organizations

World Health Organization - provided drugs and intravenous fluids valued at \$20,000.

Governments

Austria - contributed in-kind assistance valued at \$13,860 through the League of Red Cross Societies (LORCS).

Cameroon - made cash contribution of \$10,000.

Canada - contributed \$18,690 in cash through LORCS.

China, Peoples Republic of - contributed \$22,575 in cash through LORCS.

Denmark - provided \$15,430 in cash through LORCS.

Finland - made a cash contribution of \$21,000 through LORCS.

France - contributed 1,095 tons of flour, value not reported.

Ghana - contributed \$2,000 in cash.

Japan - made a cash contribution of \$10,000 through LORCS.

Korea, Republic of - contributed \$20,000 in cash.

Luxembourg - made a cash contribution of \$4,200 through LORCS.

Netherlands - contributed \$24,910 in cash through LORCS.

New Zealand - donated \$327 in cash through LORCS.

Nigeria - made a cash contribution of \$10,000.

Norway - contributed \$31,500 in cash through LORCS.

Soviet Union - contributed thirteen cases of medicines, value not reported.

Sweden - made a cash donation of \$30,765 through LORCS.

Thailand - contributed \$2,100 in cash through LORCS.

Voluntary Agencies

World Lebanese Cultural Union - made a cash contribution of \$6,000.

TOTAL \$263,357