

Summary  
Report ...

**Liberia Fire**  
**December 12, 1977**



Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance  
Agency for International Development

July 1979

Liberia--FireData

Date: December 12, 1977

Location: West Point neighborhood of Monrovia, Liberia

Dead: 0

People Affected: 100 families, estimated 950 people

Damage: 20 multi-family dwellings destroyed, 15 multi-family dwellings damaged, value estimated at \$100,000

The Disaster

- A fire of unknown origin destroyed 20 multi-family houses and damaged another 15, leaving about 950 people homeless.
- The fire occurred in West Point, one of the most depressed of the urban slum areas around Monrovia.

Action Taken by the Government of Liberia (GOL)

- President Tolbert inspected the burned out area and declared a disaster. He set up a disaster relief committee chaired by the Minister of Local Government.
- The Liberian National Housing Authority (NHA) was given responsibility for aiding the homeless families. The NHA registered all fire victims by family. Forty families were housed right away in a GOL-sponsored housing estate; the other 60 families moved in with relatives and were provided with some cash and in-kind assistance by the GOL and other donors.
- The GOL decided to move the fire victims out of West Point. The NHA started a low-cost housing project which would accommodate the 100 families. The dollar value of this self-help was estimated at \$800,000.

TOTAL - \$800,000

Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

- On December 15, 1977, the U.S. Charge d'Affairs in Liberia, Mr. Harold Horan, determined that a disaster of such a magnitude as to warrant USG assistance had occurred in Liberia.
- A contribution of \$5,000 was made to assist in resettling the homeless fire victims.
- A housing expert who was in Liberia on temporary duty at the time of the fire helped with the assessment. The resettlement phase received support from a regular USG housing development program.

TOTAL - \$5,000

Assistance Provided by U. S. Voluntary Agencies

-- None

Assistance Provided by the International Community

-- Federal Republic of Germany -- cash and in-kind, details not reported

-- Netherlands -- cash and in-kind, details not reported

-- United Kingdom -- cash and in-kind, details not reported

TOTAL - not reported