



Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

# DISASTER CASE REPORT

Agency for  
International  
Development

Washington D.C.  
20523

## EQUATORIAL GUINEA - Civil Strife

Date: August 3, 1979, date of coup (FY 79)

Location: Countrywide

No. Dead: Unknown

No. Affected: In the broadest sense, the whole population was affected by eleven years of governmental neglect and mismanagement. 1979 population estimates were between 200,000-250,000. Since the population in 1968 was approximately 400,000, estimates are that between 150,000-200,000 people fled the country or were killed.

Damage: Deterioration of administrative and social services including health care, education, power, and communications. Economy and government devastated.

### The Disaster

Eleven years of neglect, maladministration, and terror by the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea (REG) under the rule of President Macias resulted in the devastation of the economy and essential public services, and the exodus of over 100,000 Equatorial Guineans into neighboring countries. On August 3, 1979, President Macias was overthrown by a military coup led by Lt. Col. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mjesogo. After evaluating the extent of the damage, President Teodoro-Nguema made an appeal for international assistance to help rebuild the country.

### Action Taken by the Government of Equatorial Guinea

The new government's ability to respond to the situation was limited. Foreign exchange reserves had been depleted and there was an almost total absence of competent administrative personnel to implement government policy. The new government was cooperative in allowing foreign donors access to the country to assess the situation.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA - Civil Strife

Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

An operations officer from the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), a regional Food for Peace officer, and a Center for Disease Control (CDC) epidemiologist were sent to Equatorial Guinea to assess needs and make recommendations to the USG.....\$5,880

Through OFDA, the USG donated approximately one ton of medicines and medical supplies. Total costs including transportation.....\$36,580

OFDA reimbursed UNICEF for the purchase of 17 kerosene refrigerators and for the air freight from Copenhagen to Madrid (transportation from Madrid was handled by Spain).....\$16,219\*

\* This amount was carried over into FY 1980 accounts.

TOTAL \$58,679

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

None reported.

Assistance Provided by the International Community

International Organizations

European Economic Community - airlifted 80 MT of food to Bioko and Rio Muni; an additional 400 MT of rice and 100 MT of edible oil were shipped to Equatorial Guinea.

UNICEF - supplied 4,000 jackets of oral rehydration salts (ORS)

Governments

Cameroon - donated 15 MT of rice and other commodities; value not reported.

China, Peoples Republic - donated an unknown quantity of rice.

France - provided 200 MT of flour; rehabilitated the hospital at Riabia staffing it with 3 doctors and 2 nurses provided by the French PVO, Medecins Sans Frontieres. Participated in a joint program with the United Kingdom to train EG civil servants.

Spain - supplied 533 MT of food, vaccination teams, medical supplies, financial support, and relief personnel. Provided transportation from Madrid to Equatorial Guinea for the 17 kerosene refrigerators. Value of assistance unknown.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA - Civil Strife

United Kingdom - participated in a joint program with the French to train EG civil servants.

Cuba, the USSR, China, and other countries may have provided medical personnel, but it is difficult to determine if this was special assistance or an augmentation of in-country operations in existence before the coup.