



The Liberian Civil War (1989-2003)

In 1989, Charles Taylor and his NPFL rebel group launched a rebellion against the Samuel Doe government of the Republic of Liberia. Civil war ensued among various tribal groups and the country suffered estimated deaths of up to 300,000 people before the end of fighting in 2003. The war was characterized by the use of child soldiers (many of whom were fed narcotics in order to incite them to perform the deadly tasks directed by their leaders) and gruesome atrocities including the random amputation of limbs, mutilation and the murder of pregnant women simply for the purpose of betting on the gender of the unborn child.

In addition to the human carnage, the infrastructure of the country was laid to waste. Buildings, including hospitals and power facilities, were looted, burned and destroyed. Water and sanitation systems fell into unimaginable disrepair and were rendered useless. By the end of the war, the nation was left without power, water or sanitation. The war displaced nearly one-third of the population into refugee camps across the country and West Africa. Tens of thousands of refugees migrated to the Firestone farm seeking to avoid the horrific violence, overwhelming the property.

The U.S. State Department has said that the war “brought about a steep decline in the living standards of the country, including its education and infrastructure.” Most major businesses were destroyed or heavily damaged, and most foreign investors and businesses left the country. Today, about 85% of Liberians are unemployed.

USAID, the foreign aid branch of the U.S. State Department, has said, “it is difficult to exaggerate the devastation that this war has had on Liberia’s physical, social, political, economic and governance structure.”

Firestone Natural Rubber Company
250 W. 96th St. • Indianapolis, IN 46260 • USA
www.firestonenaturalrubber.com



The Firestone Rubber Farm

Firestone's farming operations were not spared during Liberia's civil war. Various warring factions occupied the Firestone property at different times over the 14 years of civil war. Firestone's worker housing, schools, power transmission, vehicles, hospital and rubber processing factory were severely damaged or destroyed. This was not only the result of artillery and bullets, looting and vandalism, but also 14 years during which the company was unable to invest in maintaining or rebuilding these critical facilities.

In 2005, the Company reached an agreement with the Government of Liberia to begin the rebuilding process.

Since the end of the war, the Company has already invested almost \$59 million in improving the conditions in Liberia and intends to invest tens of millions more. Almost 1,000 homes have been built or renovated, and approximately 4,000 additional homes will be constructed. The Company currently operates 23 schools that teach nearly 15,000 children and 18 health care facilities that treat employees and their families as well as other members of the Liberian community. To help rebuild the Liberian rubber industry, the company is distributing tens of thousands of free rubber tree saplings to Liberian farmers to help secure the future for thousands of families in the country. This rebuilding process is particularly difficult given the lack of good roads, the lack of electricity throughout much of the country and the lack of other essential infrastructure. Nonetheless, Firestone Natural Rubber Company remains committed to the country and the people of Liberia.

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Firestone Liberia Statistics

Social Statistics

	After 14-Year Civil War (1989-2003)	Currently
Liberian Employees	5,476	6,858
Non-Liberian Employees	14	22
Firestone Schools	15	23
Firestone High School	0	1
Total Children Enrolled in Firestone Schools	8,279	14,971
Children Enrolled in Firestone High School	0	765
Student Computer Labs	0	4
Avg. Monthly Health Visits (Firestone and Community At-Large)	6,074	9,883
Babies Delivered (Firestone Family) (Jan-June 2008)	N/A	234
Babies Delivered (Community At-Large) (Jan-June 2008)	N/A	490
Firestone Medical Facilities (Clinics, Health Posts, Mobile)	16	18

Schooling is free of charge to children of Firestone employees. In addition, Firestone provides free health care and housing to Firestone employees and their dependents.

Facts

Firestone Leased Acreage	118,990
Free Rubber Tree Seedlings Distributed to Assist Replanting of Small Liberian Rubber Farms (2007)	659,050
(1st half 2008)	430,000
Payments Made for Rubber Purchased from Liberian Rubber Farmers (2007)	\$45,122,000
(1st half 2008)	\$22,724,000
Avg. Life Expectancy in Liberia (World Health Organization)	Male: 41 Female: 44
Number of Firestone Retirees	4,400
Avg. Age of Firestone Liberian Retiree	72.7
Post Civil War Capital Spending (2004 to Date)	\$58,985,000



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Post Civil War New Housing Construction

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 (to date)	Total Completed To Date (2004-2008)	Post Civil War Rehabilitation (5-Year Plan)	% of Plan	Post Civil War Rehabilitation (10-Year Plan)	% of Plan
Farm Worker Housing	4	32	120	684	40	880	2,275	38.7%	3,651	24.1%
Farm Supervisor/ Staff Housing	0	0	0	72	36	108	597	18.1%	1,197	9.0%
Total Housing	4	32	120	756	76	988	2,872	34.4%	4,848	20.4%