



## Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES)

# Liberia

### Country Setting

- Fourteen years of civil war has caused death, destruction and massive population displacement (approximately 500,000 internally displaced people, about half living in camps and half in informal settlements).
- 80 per cent of the population live in absolute poverty and 54 per cent in extreme poverty (less than US\$1/per day).
- At 235 deaths per 1000 live births, the under-five mortality rate is the fifth highest in the world. Life expectancy is only 41 years.

### Basic Indicators

Total population (1000s)	3,367
Under-five mortality rate (per 1000)	235
Total adult literacy rate (%)	54

### Water and Sanitation Coverage

	Water (%)	Sanitation (%)
Urban	72	49
Rural	52	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>26</b>

### WES Sector Setting

- Water and sanitation coverage is much lower than listed (data is generally unreliable), many systems have broken down or are heavily stressed by rapid population increases in parts of the country.
- According to a 2004 assessment there are only 727 functional hand pumps in the entire country. Vandalism, and lack of spare parts and technical knowledge contributes to the problem.
- Management of water points remains a major challenge, even in those areas that are accessible. Communities are generally unwilling or unable to contribute funds for upkeep.
- Unsafe hygiene practices coupled with limited access to sanitation facilities results in high diarrhoea rates generally, and cholera outbreaks in slums and informal settlements.
- With the improving security situation, schools and health clinics are reopening, but many of them lack water and sanitation facilities.

## UNICEF WES Programme

### Main Components

- The UNICEF emergency response programme focuses on the provision of basic services in IDP camps and host communities, and in cholera and diarrhoea hotspot areas.
- Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion in schools is prioritised, and is a critical component in UNICEF's ambitious Back-to-School campaign.
- Hygiene promotion programmes promote the use of participatory, transformative methods.

### Programme Highlights and Achievements

- Training of over 600 sanitation and hygiene promotion facilitators in participatory techniques, in 2003.
- Construction of water and sanitation facilities in almost 900 schools in the Back-to-School campaign. Additional facilities constructed in camps, communities and health posts. Water trucking benefiting 5,500 displaced people.
- Support to national assessment of WES facilities.