

*** ADVISORY ***

UNICEF: Interviews available on occasion of Liberia Partners' Forum

- Who:** Cream Wright, Global Chief of Education, UNICEF
Rozanne Chorlton, UNICEF Representative in Liberia
Keith Wright, UNICEF Senior Programme Officer in Liberia
- What:** One-on-one telephone interviews on the education component of Liberia's reconstruction in light of the high-level donors' conference on Liberia which will be held in Washington DC, Tuesday and Wednesday, 13-14 February 2007.
- When:** Monday 12 February through Friday 16 February
- Why:** Years of civil conflict have inflicted extensive damage on Liberia's population and its infrastructure. Education, especially for girls, has taken a particularly heavy toll. Net primary school enrollment currently stands at 74 per cent for boys and 58 per cent for girls. At the secondary school level, these rates drop to 22 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively. Addressing the needs of the adolescents and young people who missed out on education during the conflict is essential for their own well-being as well as for the country's development.

Background

A donors' conference, the Liberia Partners' Forum, will be held in Washington DC 13-15 February, co-hosted by the World Bank, the United Nations, the government of the United States and the European Commission. It aims to review progress made by the Liberian Government on the reform and reconstruction agenda and to discuss financing needs to enable the country to meet reconstruction and development challenges.

UNICEF will co-chair the education session at the two-day Forum.

This will be followed by a one-day meeting sponsored by UNICEF in New York on 16 February, with the participation of representatives from UNICEF, other international organizations and the donor community.

For further information and interview requests, please contact

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