

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Liberia

SUMMARY FOR 2005

Critical Issues for Children and Women

Since the signing of the Accra Peace Agreement in 2003, Liberia became more accessible for humanitarian assistance. The conflict in Liberia has led to the massive displacement of 561,886 Liberians. 80% of the population live in absolute poverty and the national unemployment level stands above 85%.

To date, the humanitarian picture for children and women is still grim. 26% of the children suffer from moderate and severe malnutrition. Only 51% of boys and 49% of girls go to school. The HIV rate is increasing, currently at an estimated rate of 8.2% for the population aged 15-49 years. 69% of the population has no access to safe water. Out of an estimated number of 15-20,000 children associated with fighting forces, nearly 9,000 former child soldiers have so far entered the Disarmament, Demobilisation, Rehabilitation and Reunification process.

Planned Humanitarian Action for 2005

UNICEF is an active member of the UN Country Team, and has a leading role in Child Protection, Water and Sanitation, Education, and Health and Nutrition with WHO. In 2005, the humanitarian priorities will be the re-establishment of basic social services, providing support to IDPs and refugees, and the social reintegration of children associated with fighting forces.

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF will conduct routine immunization, support health units and clinics in delivering primary and reproductive health services, and provide emergency health care for IDPs. UNICEF will also continue supporting therapeutic and supplementary feeding programme.

Water and Environmental Sanitation: UNICEF will restore access to safe drinking water and provide adequate sanitation facilities in schools, health centres, IDP camps and resettlement areas. Hygiene education will be promoted.

Education: UNICEF will provide essential school materials and equipment, train additional primary school level teachers, and support Life Skills education. UNICEF will further build MOE's capacities and support the revision of the school curriculum with a focus on girls' education and parent-teacher associations.

Child Protection: UNICEF will build partners' capacities on child rights and child protection. UNICEF will further support and strengthen social reintegration activities for all demobilised children. UNICEF will also focus on protection against sexual abuse and exploitation and HIV/AIDS issues.

Summary of UNICEF Financial Needs for 2005	
Sector	US\$
Child Protection	6,595,000
Health and Nutrition	7,482,000
Education	12,502,000
Water and Environmental Sanitation	3,634,000
Total¹	30,213,000

¹ The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 12%. The actual recovery rate on individual contributions will be calculated in accordance with the Executive Board Decision 2003/9 of 5 June 2003.