

LIBERIA

United Nations Development Assistance Framework (a modified UNDAF)

2003 - 2005

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Part I. Rationale of the UNDAF

UN Reform and the UNDAF

In 1997, the UN Secretary General launched a programme for reform to improve the development work of the United Nations. One major reform proposal was the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) intended to bring greater coherence to the United Nations development operations at the country level.

The UNDAF is the planning framework which consists of common objectives, common strategies of cooperation and time frames. The UNDAF aims for greater impact of the UN System development assistance through collaborative action.

Lastly, the UNDAF lays the foundation for cooperation among the UN System, government and other development partners.

However, in light of the country's complex development situation, the standard framework for the UNDAF did not seem appropriate for Liberia. It has therefore been proposed that a "modified UNDAF" be developed, that would bring together humanitarian assistance and peace-building in a development continuum.

The approach of a modified UNDAF came about in a number of crisis/post-conflict countries in which the UN Country Team felt that fully fledged CCA and UNDAF were not relevant within the country context and what was needed was a more comprehensive and flexible approach that linked relief and development and included early warning and peace-building aspects.

The UN Country Team has agreed on the main priorities and objectives of the modified UNDAF. The substantive issues addressed by the UNDAF are guided by the Common Country Assessment (CCA), the consolidated Appeal Process on humanitarian assistance (CAP) and other key analysis documents such as the Peace Building Concept Paper and the national Medium Term Plan (MTP).

UNDAF in Liberia

The government of Liberia's national reconstruction and development strategy, as curved-out in its Medium Term Plan (MTP) focuses on reconciliation and consolidation of peace, improving security and governance; reintegration and resettlement; public sector effectiveness and transparency; private sector development, job creation and growth; social services rehabilitation, and statistical information and database reconstruction. The over-arching theme of this strategy is sustainable human development and poverty reduction.

The UNDAF is developed to contribute to the above goal of the Government, building on on-going programmes in conflict resolution, peace building and relief; good governance, food security and sustainable recovery; reproductive health and child protection, women empowerment and the environment. Lastly, the modified UNDAF is designed to assist the government in creating the enabling environment within which the country would work towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

Peace, security, human rights and development are now recognized as interdependent conditions for human progress. The objective of the modified UNDAF will be to define a strategic path that will accelerate the national recovery and reconstruction process and institutionalize an approach linking peace-building and development. The modified UNDAF will increase the impact of cooperation of the UN system in addressing Liberian national needs and priorities.

Part II. Development Context: Poverty and Conflict nexus in Liberia

Background

The 2003-2005 United Nations Development Framework (UNDAF) for Liberia is informed by the current state of economic development as well as conflicts within the Mano River Basin.

After seven years of a devastating civil war, which which caused over 200 000 deaths and displaced up to 80% of the total population of 2.5 million, Liberia is still faced with the challenges of reconciliation, peace building, reconstruction and recovery.

The newly elected government installed in 1997, saddled with an enormous national debt burden of US\$2.8 billion has not been able to generate the required resources domestically and internationally to revive the economy to its pre-war level. After five years of transition, GDP remains below 50% of its pre war level; the unemployment rate in the formal sector is approximately 85%. In addition to a severe decline in international aid, since May 2001 the country is under selective sanctions imposed by the Security Council for allegedly supporting RUF in diamonds and arms smuggling, which has increasingly adversely affected foreign investment and donor confidence.

Furthermore, outlook of durable peace and security has been dampened by sporadic fighting with dissidents in the northern county of Lofa, resulting in significant new displacements of populations. The gain in recovery and resettlement of displaced people and refugees between 1997 and 2000 is being reversed by a new humanitarian crisis. An estimate of 80,000 displaced now require humanitarian assistance for their survival. In early 2002, the conflict has spread to three counties causing nationwide insecurity.

Sub-regional dimension of the conflict in Liberia

The outbreak of civil war in Liberia in 1989 signaled the beginning of what was to become a major sub-regional crisis. In 1991, the conflict spread to Sierra Leone as the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) launched a devastating incursion in Sierra Leone that resulted in the displacement of at least 70% of the country's 4.5 million citizens. As violence escalated in Sierra Leone and Liberia, Guinea and Ivory Coast became the main hosts of the refugee populations. Since then, there have been consistent accusations and counter accusations among the three countries of the Mano River Union (Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone) of either cross border attacks or armed support to dissidents.

Even since the prospects for peace in Sierra Leone, the situation within the Mano River basin remains a basis for concern. The latent conflict is threatening political stability within the broader ECOWAS sub region. The flows of refugees are creating new security problems and putting additional pressure on the already fragile economies and limited infrastructures of the host countries. The latest estimates indicate that out of the 15 million inhabitants of the West African sub region, more than 1.1 million are either internally displaced or refugees.

Nevertheless, recent meetings between Heads of State and senior officials from the Mano River Union have signaled hope for stability in the sub region.

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Poverty in Liberia

Liberia is among the poorest of the poor in the West African region. In 1999, with a human development index of 0.276, Liberia ranked 174 out of 175 countries in the world in human development.

The incidence of poverty is widespread. Three-fourths (76%) of the population lives under the poverty line of less than US\$1.00 per day. An estimated 52% of the population lives in extreme poverty, on less than US\$0.50 per day.

Poverty has many determinants; prominent among them are population growth rate; unemployment; education; housing; food insecurity; access to safe drinking water, to sanitation, and to health services; and HIV/AIDS prevalence.

Liberia fares poorly relative to each determinant. All dimensions of human development indicated in the revised UN Common Country Assessment (CCA) are low.

With a population of 2.7 million, life expectancy is recorded at 47.7 years. The estimated population growth rate of 2.4%, although a decline from the 3.4% recorded in 1984, is still one of the highest in the world. The population is young with approximately 54% being under 20 years. This young population is dependant on an adult population that generally lacks income; Liberia is among the most food insecure countries with 35% of the population undernourished.

Adult illiteracy is 63% with high gender disparities (51% for men, 74% for women) which has further implications on poverty. "When school attendance rates for girls increase, and general literacy rates for women rise, infant mortality rates decline, overall family health increases and the impact on the economy is positive" (USAID, Strategic Plan, 2000).

Housing development is low; only 20% of the population lives in good housing. Access to safe drinking water is 26%, with gross disparity between rural and urban dwellers (43% in urban centers, 19% in rural communities).

With dwindling public finances and low inflows of official development assistance, health financing is a major issue. Access to sanitation is 11%, to health services 25%. HIV/AIDS prevalence has increased to 8.2% with an upward trend.

The state of infrastructures in a country is also a determinant of poverty. In Liberia, generally, power, water works, telecommunications, roads and ports are either out of commission, in a state of disrepair, or performing only marginally.

Finally, governance is another determinant of poverty. Poor governance has always been at the heart of Liberia's problem. This has manifested itself in several forms: the lack of transparency and accountability; disrespect for the rule of law; low popular participation in national policy formulation; sanctions of opponents; and human rights abuses.

Poverty in Liberia is undermining sustainable human development. Since the causes of poverty are multiple, an integrated, holistic, multifaceted approach to alleviating it will be required.

Conflicts in Liberia

Internal conflicts, civil war and cross border attacks into Liberia have disrupted political, social, and economic development in Liberia since the 1980s.

Liberia is a unique case. With most of the country conflict free, Liberia is a post conflict country. However, with the conflict in the northern County of Lofa now spreading to other parts of the country, Liberia is technically still a country in conflict. This "no peace, no conflict" situation has defined the elusiveness of real peace in Liberia for almost two decades.

Conflicts induce poverty. Conflicts dislocate populations, disrupt productive activities, destroy social infrastructures such as schools, health facilities, water works and power installations. Besides, the mismanagement of natural resource divert national resources from development. Collaterally, conflicts undermine government capacity to govern effectively. All of these ultimately lead to a lowered standard of living of the Liberian people.

Conversely, poverty leads to conflict. Poverty is a breeding ground for violence. Poverty induces conflicts and provides opportunities for self-enrichment.

The Imperative of Peace Building

A vicious circle between armed conflict, the proliferation of small arms, a high level of unemployment, particularly among youths, weak governance, and the illicit trade of mineral resources, such as diamonds and timber, used to fuel the conflict have exacerbated a spiral of violence and poverty that have hindered conflict resolution, sustained recovery and respect for the rule of law and human rights.

Combined, both conflict and poverty lead to underdevelopment, which in turn, promotes more conflict and more poverty. Accordingly, the trio of poverty, conflict, and underdevelopment conspire and create a "zero-sum" game in which sustainable human development is ultimately compromised.

Conflicts in Liberia are compromising sustainable development. Liberia's conflict prone society has to give way to an enabling society of peace, tolerance, justice and equal access to opportunities.

Peace making and peace building in Liberia are thus national imperatives.

Peace making and peace building are essential preconditions for Liberia's recovery. Peace attracts private sector investments and official development assistance both of which Liberia urgently needs. Conversely, conflicts induce capital flight. Peace contributes to an enabling environment in which individuals can learn, enjoy and achieve their potentials.

Political stability in Liberia is thus a social, economic and political imperative. It is the foundation of Liberia's post-war rehabilitation and reconstruction as well as her economic recovery and growth. It is the only logical route to sustainable human development. If Liberia must begin the process of national renewal, then Liberia has no alternative but to secure and maintain a durable peace.

UN Response: UNDAF scope and focus

To progress towards the achievement of the millennium development goals, the CCA and the national Medium Term Plan have summarized the development challenges as the fragile peace and the induced humanitarian crisis, the residual governance problems with respect to human rights and the rule of law, the weak capacities in economic management and agriculture planning, the destruction of social and economic infrastructures, the high rate of illiteracy and the vulnerability of the population to health hazards.

The consolidation of peace remains the most urgent challenge facing Liberia. The root causes of the conflict identified as weak economic management, social inequalities and ethnic polarization remain to a great extent unresolved.

In appreciation of the enormous security and development challenges facing Liberia, the UNDAF herein identifies, defines and articulates the scope and focus of the United Nations' operations in Liberia for the period 2003-2005. It presents the contours within which UN agencies shall undertake detailed planning and implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation of discrete programs and projects.

The UNDAF presents four thematic areas and four cross cutting issues for intervention and support. The thematic areas are: (i) conflict resolution, peace building and relief; (ii) good governance; (iii) food security and sustainable recovery and (iv) reproductive health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

The cross cutting issues are: (i) gender; (ii) child rights; (iii) protection and (iv) environmental and natural resource management.

Peace, security, human rights and development are interdependent conditions for human progress. The objective of the UNDAF for the given period is to define a critical path that will accelerate national recovery and reconstruction and institutionalize an approach that links peace building, humanitarian assistance and poverty alleviation towards promoting sustainable human development.

Ten (10) core impact indicators have been selected as measure of overall progress in achieving sustainable human development over the next three years. These indicators and their targets are as follows:

Indicators	2002	2005 (Target)
Armed conflict	Armed conflict	
Women in legislature	11%	
Poverty incidence	76%	
HIV prevalence rate	8.2%	
Female illiteracy rate	74%	
Infant mortality rate	117/1000	
Under five mortality rate	194/1000	
Maternal mortality rate	578/100 000	
Underweight children	26%	
Per capita income	US\$ 120	

Part III. Goals and Objectives

Theme 1. Conflict resolution, peace building and relief

Overall Goal: to seek resolution of the present armed conflict and to initiate a peace process that addresses the root causes of conflict and the resulting humanitarian situation.

Objective 1. To support internal political dialogue and national reconciliation

Objective 2. To support resettlement, reintegration of IDPs, refugees and returnees

Objective 3. To support demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration of Ex-Combatants

Objective 4. To support restructuring and capacity building of Security Forces

Objective 5. To promote confidence building and peace education

Theme 2. Good governance

Overall Goal: to create an enabling environment for sustainable human development

Objective 1. To support the electoral process

Objective 2. To strengthen Judiciary, rule of law and national capacity to promote and protect human rights

Objective 3. To enhance capacity for economic management

Objective 4. To improve the statistical delivery system

Theme 3. Food security and sustainable recovery

Overall Goal: to improve living conditions of the poor and create opportunities of sustainable livelihoods

Objective 1. To improve household food security and nutrition levels and to increase income generated from the agricultural sector

Objective 2. To support micro-enterprise financing and private sector initiatives

Objective 3. To support social sectors recovery: health, education, watsan, access, market facilities

Theme 4. Reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Overall Goal: to improve life expectancy and contain the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases

Objective 1. To promote advocacy and awareness campaigns (IEC) on HIV/AIDS prevention, control of priority diseases and reproductive health for behavioral change

Objective 2. To support policy planning and the development of treatment protocols for HIV/AIDS

Objective 3. To improve provision of reproductive health commodities and services and support to HIV/AIDS infected persons.

Objective 4. To support to life expectancy and fertility programmes

Theme 5. Cross cutting issues

Objective 1. To improve gender equity and women empowerment

Objective 2. To promote child protection

Objective 3. To increase awareness on environmental and natural resources management

THEME 1 CONFLICT RESOLUTION, PEACE BUILDING AND RELIEF

Goal: to seek resolution of the present armed conflict and to initiate a peace process that addresses the root causes of conflict and the resulting humanitarian situation.

Context

The general and presidential elections conducted in 1997 under the guidance of the Abuja Accord ended the seven-year old Liberian civil conflict. The war settled the leadership issue that was at the heart of the conflict. However, the new government soon began to be accused of poor governance including human right abuses and economic and fiscal mismanagement. The United Nations imposed sanctions on the country allegedly for gun running for diamonds (blood diamonds) in Sierra Leone. Three years after the sitting of the new government, a group of disgruntled Liberians named and styled Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) began an armed crusade in Liberia with the sole purpose of removing the President. The new conflict, which was being successfully contained in the north of the country (Lofa County), spread to two other counties in the west of the country (Gbpolu and Bomi Counties) and, in February 2002, threatened to reach Monrovia, the Capitol City of Liberia.

Liberia's post conflict peace has been debased. There is now no real peace to consolidate and build upon. Rather, there are immediate needs to work towards achieving durable peace and reconciliation among all Liberians. The entire spectrum of peace making, peace keeping, and peace building, may once again, need to be vigorously pursued.

The conflict is creating a horrendous humanitarian crisis. Agricultural production has been disrupted, families uprooted, and communities destroyed by both the war and persons in search of "the spoils of war". There is massive human suffering; the most vulnerable being women, children and the elderly. Approximately a quarter of a million persons are already internally displaced, while an estimated one hundred thousands persons have fled across the borders to the neighboring countries in search of refuge. The problem of attending to the immediate survival needs of the refugees by the sister states is putting stress on their fragile economies.

Regarding the internally displaced, their needs are enormous: these include food, temporary shelters, water and sanitation, health and reproductive care, and temporary education, recreation and family reunion for children. The Liberian government, with dwindling public finances and low levels of official development assistance, lacks the capacity to attend to these urgent human needs. Thus, while the international community works to achieve real peace in Liberia, it must, simultaneously work to assist Liberia attend the massive humanitarian needs of the population. Regrettably, there may now be donors' fatigue regarding Liberia.

KEY CHALLENGES

The challenges posed by these developments are many and critical; these include: (i) initiating political dialogue and reconciliation at the national and sub-regional levels; (ii) demobilization of combatants as well as rehabilitation and reintegration of ex-combatants; (iii) resettlement and reintegration of internally displaced persons, refugees and returnees; (iv) restructuring and capacity building of the security forces; (v) confidence building and peace education;

UN RESPONSE

The UN system has over the years contributed substantially to the peace process in Liberia. It directly supported ECOWAS in bringing the warring parties to a negotiated settlement that led to the 1997 presidential and general elections. The Secretary-General has designated a Special Representative in Liberia to head a Peace Building Office (UNOL) that has been working with the government to consolidate Liberia's fragile peace. The UN has substantially supported civic groups and non-governmental organizations that have actively worked with community-based structures in the area of reconciliation and healing. At the sub-regional level, the UN has advocated dialogue among the Mano River Union states. It has facilitated meetings among government functionaries and among civic society organizations. For the future, the UNDAF specifies five objectives for UN support to the thematic area of Conflict Resolution, Peace Building and Humanitarian Assistance.

Objective 1: Political dialogue and reconciliation at national and sub-regional levels

The UN system will support political dialogues and reconciliation as means of resolving the armed conflict and attaining durable peace in Liberia. UN efforts shall be at both the national and sub-regional levels. The focus of these efforts shall be to ensure that armed hostilities cease and are replaced by peace achieved through dialogue, reconciliation and the democratic process.

Within this context, the UN's efforts in this area shall entail support for: (i) facilitating the dialogue processes, including the holding of a national reconciliation conference; and (ii) supporting consultative processes and peace summits of ECOWAS and Mano River countries.

The logical genesis for achieving peace through dialogue and reconciliation is to arrange and put into place an immediate ceasefire. Given the suspicion and mistrust among the conflicting parties, a neutral body, perhaps from ECOWAS, the OAU or the UN, should monitor the ceasefire agreement negotiated. For similar reasons as well as the lack of capacity, the UN should also support the holding of a national reconciliation conference. This conference, which shall bring together all of Liberia's political groupings both in and out of the country, shall be a major undertaking aimed at identifying the immediate and underlying causes of Liberia's conflict prone situation and, develop a framework in which these shortcomings shall be addressed.

Given the regional dimensions of the conflict, it is imperative that dialogues and reconciliation efforts also be made among the governments and leaders of the three Mano River countries. As such, the UN shall support political dialogues and reconciliation consultations among the three Mano River governments and peoples. The efforts already started by women's groups, religious' groups, youths' groups, and other civil society organizations shall be supported. Particularly, the UN shall support consultative meetings and summits of Mano River leaders and ECOWAS. The involvement of the UN Security Council through the Office of Secretary General will be considered to strengthen and give credence to all agreements emanating from dialogues, negotiations, and reconciliation talks.

A new focus shall be placed on conflict prevention. Conflict avoidance initiatives offer a viable alternative to peacekeeping and conflict resolution. The international community has tended to neglect prevention in favor of mitigation. However, the high costs of peacekeeping as well as the cost, pain and difficulty of rehabilitation and reconstruction have motivated new interest in conflict prevention. Since the capacity of Liberia to establish early warning systems is weak, there is an urgent need for intervention of the international community. Accordingly, the UN shall support conflict prevention activities.

Proposed activities:

- Support consultative process at sub-regional and regional levels
- Facilitate the dialogue process between Government, civil society and opposition leaders
- Strengthen the capacity of CBOs involved in peace building and reconciliation at the national and subregional level

Indicators:

- Cease-fire agreement is concluded and hostilities ended
- Consultations held at community, national and regional levels (such as peace and reconciliation commission / regional conference)
- Capacity of CBOs strengthened

Partnership Strategy

UNOL*, UNDP

UNOL will spearhead the dialoguing process. It will identify the conflicting parties and initiate mediation among them. The immediate focus of the dialogue is to ensure that the parties agree to cease armed hostilities. It will collaborate with ECOWAS and the relevant organizations in putting into place a mechanism for monitoring the ceasefire. UNOL will also facilitate a sub-regional consultative process leading to peace summits in the Mano River Union and ECOWAS.

UNDP will take leadership in a reconciliation process at the national and the grassroots levels. It will work with the Government and CSOs in planning a national reconciliation conference. UNDP will develop a comprehensive program for conflict avoidance.

Objective 2: Rehabilitation and reintegration of ex-combatants

The UN system shall support a comprehensive program demobilization of combatants as well as the rehabilitation and reintegration of ex-combatants.

Support to demobilization efforts shall include undertaking a profile of combatants so that programs designed for their rehabilitation takes into account their specific circumstances and needs. Special demobilization packages shall be given to each combatant to ease their reentry into civilian life.

The UN shall support rehabilitation of former combatants with the aim of helping them adjust to a post-conflict environment. Particular consideration will be given very vulnerable groups such as former child and female soldiers as well as those who are handicapped or orphaned. Training in life and economic skills will be integral dimensions of the rehabilitation program for ex-combatants.

The UN recognizes that sustainable socio-economic reinsertion of former combatants is critical to post-conflict recovery in Liberia and the Mano River Basin. The UN system shall, therefore, lend its fullest support to the development and implementation of a comprehensive reinsertion program of ex-combatants which takes into account their needs for survival, de-traumatization, acquired skills utilization.

Proposed activities:

- Support demobilization efforts (?) UNOL - ECOWAS -
- Support readjustment, reprofiling and retraining of former combatants

- Vocational and agricultural skills for ex combatants and war affected youth (WFP food for training, UNICEF,
- Indicators:
- Number of combatants profiled, disarmed and demobilized
 - Number of former combatants participating in readjustment programs

Partnership Strategies

UNOL*, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO

UNOL, in collaboration with UNDP, will be deeply involved in developing a comprehensive program of disarmament and demobilization of combatants. They will first develop a full profile of the combatants which will be used as a key input by other agencies in developing programs of rehabilitation and reintegration. UNOL will support the appropriate institutions in retrieval and disposal of arms.

UNDP will team up with UNICEF, WHO and other agencies in developing appropriate programs aimed at helping former combatants in adjusting to a post-conflict environment.

Objective 3: Resettlement and reintegration of internally displaced persons, refugees and returnees

The UN system will support the development and implementation of programs which will resettle and reintegrate people into their communities of origin. The program shall seek to address the immediate problems of basic needs and the related challenges of counseling, training, land tenure and start-up economic support.

The program shall consist of three components: (a) to resettle and reintegrate internally displaced persons in new/original communities, (b) to resettle returnees and (c) to repatriate refugees from Liberia to their countries of origin.

(q) Support to the IDPs

OCHA mandate (coordination and resource mobilization). UNICEF, UNDP, WHO, WFP

(b) Support to the refugees

UNHCR mandate. WFP, UNICEF, FAO , WHO, UNFPA

(c) Support to the returnees

For the Liberian population that took refuge in neighboring countries, the UN shall support the process of voluntary repatriation and resettlement. The primary needs of these people in the forms of temporary food relief, transit shelters, health care and transportation, shall be supported by the UN.

UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, FAO

memorandum of understanding between UNDP and HCR , between UNICEF and HCR for the transition between return and resettlement.

The UN will encourage both internally displaced persons and returnees to have an input in the planning of resettled communities. It will assist beneficiaries to organize themselves into structures that will advocate for them, accentuate their needs for development, and mobilize their collective will and energies in taking charge of their own destinies.

The assistance shall be comprehensive and targeted to the most vulnerable, particularly women, children and the elderly. The needs to be attended shall include food and the recommencement

of agricultural production, transit shelters construction, health and reproductive care provision, and water and sanitation services. Humanitarian assistance shall also include support of tracing and family reunion programs for children. Humanitarian assistance programs shall be undertaken with the view of disabusing beneficiaries of being dependent on assistance. As such, the assistance shall partly seek to empower beneficiaries.

Proposed activities:

- Provide basic relief needs in the form of food aid, transit shelters, health care, and transportation to refugees and returnees
- Provide basic relief needs in the form of food aid, transit shelters, health care, and transportation to IDPs
- Support a process of voluntary repatriation of refugees
- Support the process of resettlement and reintegration of returnees and IDPs with the provision of tools, seeds, microcredit, basic skills, basic social services.
- Support coordination of humanitarian assistance and resource mobilization
- Build capacity of host communities in planning and management

Indicators:

- Proportion of displaced persons and returnees resettled into new/original communities
- Proportion of population dependant on humanitarian assistance
- Proportion of IDPs and returnees participating in skills building programs
- Number of community development leadership structures established in host communities
- Response to appeal for humanitarian assistance to Liberia

Partnership Strategies

UNHCR*, OCHA, WFP, UNICEF, UNDP, WHO, UNFPA, FAO.

UNHCR will spearhead all activities involving the repatriation of Liberian refugees and those to the neighboring countries. OCHA will take the lead in the resettlement of displaced persons. However, because OCHA's role is limited to coordination, it might be useful to consider having OCHA collaborate with UNDP on IDPs and to consider UNDP taking over in the context of its ongoing role in empowering communities. UNICEF and WHO will collaborate with UNHCR and OCHA in developing and providing specialized packages for children, women, the disabled and the elderly in the areas of health, education, water and sanitation.

Objective 4: Restructuring and capacity building of the security forces

The Abuja Accord that brought peace to Liberia was not followed to the letter and spirit. An important aspect of the agreement called for ECOWAS presence and assistance in the restructuring of the army and security forces. This was meant to ensure an impartial integration of elements of all the warring factions so that no one faction or tribal element would dominate the army and security apparatus of the state. Broad based guidelines and competency requirements were to be followed. This was thus to be an instrument for building confidence, laying an effective foundation for reconciliation. Regrettably, this aspect of the agreement was never implemented.

The UN will join other donors in supporting the Government of Liberia in restructuring the army, the police and all other security forces so that each shall have a national character. This program will involve rightsizing these forces to within the context of the geopolitical and security landscape within the sub-region. Other aspects of the program shall include training and reorienting members of former armed militias who comprise these security organizations, particularly in regards to respecting human rights and rule of law, as well as to appreciate their real roles in both conflict and post-conflict situations. Ultimately, this program shall be aimed at giving Liberia a set of professional security forces who shall complement the government and civil society in processes of national renewal, rehabilitation and reconstruction, and sustainable human development.

Proposed activities:

- Support the government to restructure the army (including the militias), the police and all security forces (for instance set up a data base for the payroll UNDP)
- Support training and re-orientation of army and security personnel on protection issues (UNDP, HCR, UNICEF, UNOL)

Indicators:

- A government adopted plan for restructuring the army and security forces
- Proportion of army and security personnel undergoing re-training and re-orientation

Partnership Strategy

UNOL*, UNDP

UNDP and UNOL will work with the government of Liberia, ECOWAS and possibly the United States in developing a plan for restructuring the national army, the police and other security forces. UNDP's role shall also be in developing training and reorientation programs.

Objective 5: Confidence building and peace education

The UN system has a challenge to fully employ its advocacy role to assist Liberians understand and appreciate the merits of learning to coexist peacefully and to solve their problems without resulting to violence. The culture of violence and impunity has to be debased. The UN shall thus work with Liberians in devising innovative social and political processes, which generate "trusting communities" in which individuals and households can realize their potentials. The traditional practices of information sharing, sense of community, collective responsibility and well-being, need to be restored over the prevailing new sense of individualism and personal interest.

Overall, a process of education and reorientation of the general population towards respecting the common good of all is required. Fairness, accountability, and respect for human rights at all levels of society should be inculcated into all Liberians. Respect for human rights and peaceful co-existence among a people under a regime of freedom and the rule of law are the foundations on which modern democratic societies are built. The UN shall support programs directed to these areas.

Liberians have to be supported to finding new ways of doing politics. The retired politics of oligarchy has to give way to vision, commitment, leadership and merit. Adversarial politics that

“generate more heat than light and stimulate competitive processes that are inimical to rational problem solving has to be replaced by collaborative and analytical problem solving processes”.

The participation of local communities in confidence building and peace education shall be encouraged. Local ownership of conflicts and their resolutions are essential to the achievement of durable peace. The UN shall, collateral to other efforts at the national and sub-regional levels, support community-based confidence building and peace education activities.

Assurance of free and fair elections is also crucial for peace in Liberia. Political parties and the general population should continuously be made to appreciate that the electoral process offers a real and viable mechanism for addressing political grievances. Equal access to voters and public facilities such as media institutions as well as non-intimidation of candidates and their supporters and non-vote rigging in elections provide strong foundations for peace. Anything short of this assurance will lead to the recycle of violence and massive suffering of the population.

The UN shall thus support Liberians in building solid foundations for elections. This will involve launching a massive public education program on the electoral process, training people to participate in the process and providing logistics and other resources required for voters’ registration and the conduct of elections. Particularly, the UN shall work with the government and other donors in facilitating a “leveled playing field” in the elections. The UN shall support international observers mission.

Proposed activities:

- Promote tolerance and coexistence and educate on respecting the common good (national campaigns)
- Support a program of finding new approaches to politics (UNOL ?)
- Develop a Peace Education framework (UNDP, UNICEF, UNOL)
- Promote reconciliation through peace education at the national and community level (training of teachers, sensitization of community leaders)

Indicators:

- Inclusion of public education in the curriculum
- Number of schools where peace education are being taught
- Number of teachers trained on peace education

Partnership Strategies

UNOL*, UNDP*, UNESCO, UNFPA

Implementation Strategy for Conflict prevention, peace building and relief

In pursuit of the strategic objective of Conflict Resolution, Peace Building and Humanitarian Assistance, the following strategies shall be pursued by the United Nations system in Liberia:

i) Coordination of Donors’ efforts

Donors have the financial resources and technical expertise, but often their uncoordinated approach limits effectiveness. However, because donors are generally seen as being impartial, they hold great potentials for enhancing conflict prevention, resolution and peace building activities. Activities of donors shall be focused and

complementary. The involvement of donors in the design and the implementation of the projects/programmes and collaboration at the field level shall be encouraged.

ii) Strengthening civil society networking and advocacy capacity building

Civil society organizations' involvement in conflict prevention, resolution and peace building are generally ineffective on account of the lack of technical expertise and financial resources. Effective civil society participation in the search for peace adds value to peace achieved. The United Nations shall support civil society organizations in networking and building capacity in advocacy. Particularly, meaningful efforts of women and youth groups as well as professional bodies in these areas shall be supported.

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THEME 2: GOOD GOVERNANCE

Goal: to create an enabling environment for sustainable human development

Good governance remains a key development challenge in Liberia. There is a consensus amongst Liberians that policies and practices avariance with tenets of good governance contributed to the Liberian civil war (1998-1996). For over a century, following the founding of Liberia, successive governments in Liberia excluded a segment of the population of the country from participating in decision making on issues that affected them and the state. These included leadership and the management and use of state resources.

The last three decades witnessed a rapid decline of the economy, a military regime and a blood civil war. The civil war led to collapse of almost all institutions of governance, human rights and the rule of law, including the Judiciary, the police and other security forces.

In spite of the official cessation of hostilities and the inauguration of a government in 1997, following presidential and legislature elections, little has been done to reverse the exclusionary policies of the past, institutionalize popular participation, sustainable peace, and accountability and transparency in the management of national resources. The country's growth has remained moderate, with a GDP of approximately 50% of its 1988 level. National debt has become unsustainable at more than 20% of GDP and 80% of export earnings. Liberia's human development is among the least in the world, with a human development index of 0.276.

The disenchantment among opposition forces led to the formation of dissident groups, which began attacking the country from the Lofa County region since 1999. The new wave of insurgency has caused insecurity nationwide, and ignited a movement of IDPs and refugees to neighboring countries. In response, the government has declared a state of emergency, citing the following reasons: the threat of war, the outbreak of war and civil unrest.

KEY CHALLENGES

The restoration of peace and the institutions of governance is the single most imperative condition for recovery and development in Liberia. The government's Medium Term Plan, and the UNCCA summarized governance concerns as follows:

- ❖ National and sub-regional security;
- ❖ Weak institutions of governance, human rights and the rule of law;
- ❖ Poor macroeconomic policies and unfavorable investment climate
- ❖ High illiteracy, poverty and human development.

THE UN SYSTEM RESPONSE

The UN System in Liberia, working closely with government and civil society organizations has advocated the issues of human rights and the rule of law, through development dialogue and capacity building workshops, aimed at strengthening the Legislature, Judiciary, and law enforcement agencies, laying the formation for the revitalization and restructuring of the public administration system. The main goal is to strengthen and enhance a pluralistic, and participatory democracy, and to uphold the principles and practices of good governance so as to ensure durable peace, stability, and sustainable human development.

During the UNDAF period, the UN System will pursue four (4) main objectives: fair and free elections; judiciary and rule of law; economic management; and statistical delivery.

Objective 1: Supporting the electoral process.

The UN System sees the electoral process in Liberia, as a necessary condition for laying a firm foundation for genuine peace and democracy in Liberia. This will ensure a much more public accountability and participatory governance. A free and fair democratic election has a potential to reducing tension and ensuring a more tolerant and cohesive society. The UN Support will focus on strengthening the Election Commission, through capacity building, logistical support/electoral materials, and voters education, as well as support to Civil Society Organization (CSO) for election monitoring and reporting.

Proposed activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Institutional support to the Elections Commission, (EC)➤ Support the acquisition and security of Elections materials➤ Support voters education➤ Training of Poll workers on Electoral Administration➤ Support SOS to monitor and report on the election
Indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Capacity of the Election Commission strengthened➤ Election materials available and secured➤ Mass voter education undertaken➤ Poll workers trained
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Capacity of the Election Commission strengthened to work effectively;❖ Election materials available and secured;❖ Mass voter education undertaken;❖ Poll workers trained.

Partnership Strategies

The role of the UN System is basically facilitating the electoral process, through the provision of logistics, and voter’s education. UNDP and UNOL will collaborate in this exercise UNDP will provide election materials and logistics support, while UNOL will disseminate best practices and training of trainers on election security, polling station administration and Election monitoring. This exercise will be undertaken in partnership with government, CSO, human right groups and national and international election monitors.

UNDP and UNOL will develop a strategy for joint programming of projects, co-financing of activities, and implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Objective 2: strengthening the Judiciary, Rule of Law, and National capacity to promote and protect human rights

One of the major challenges facing the government is adherence to the rule of law and respect for human rights. During the course of the civil war, the Judiciary (the administration of Justice) shattered, while the security forces became factionized. Many of the trained security personnel were either killed or fled the country. The situation became worst as a result of the existence of a large number of ex-combatants and ex-soldiers without gainful employment. In terms of structure and command, much is desired to ensure clear line of responsibilities and chain of command, as well as the interpersonal relationship with the public.

The UN System has endeavored to provide training, build capacity and logistical support to the Judiciary, the police and other security agencies of government, with the view of improving their performance, and enhancing their awareness of the need to uphold the due process of law and the respect for human rights. Accordingly during the UNDAF's period, the UN System will continue strengthening the delivery of transparent justice at the grass-root level, through capacity building assistance to the Judiciary (Justice, of the peace and Magisterial courts in the rural areas of Liberia); training and logistical support for the police and state security apparatus; support human right groups and civil society organization, including the media, youth, women and legal organizations gear towards strengthening their capacity to raise and advocate human rights concerns. Working in partnership with the government, the UN system will support efforts to disseminate information on best practices on the media and radio dramas; and for the inclusion of human rights education in the curriculum of schools in Liberia; this is intended to lay a firm foundation for the restoration of respect for civil liberties of persons.

JUDICIARY, UPHOLDING THE RULE OF LAW AND PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS	
Proposed activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support to the Judiciary (Justice of the Peace and Magisterial courts) for the dispensation of grass root justice ➤ Capacity building for the police and other state security agencies ➤ Capacity building for human rights organizations (media, youth, women and legal organizations) ➤ Information dissemination (IEC) on human rights and the rule of law ➤ Support human rights education through the media and radio dramas
Indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Justice more effectively dispensed ➤ Improve awareness on good governance concepts ➤ Human rights organizations more vocal on human rights and the rule of law ➤ Police and other security forces expose to best practices in respect of human rights and the rule of law. ➤ Human rights issues raised in newspapers and public documents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Justice more effectively dispensed; ❖ Improved awareness on good governance concepts ❖ Human Rights organizations become more vocal on results of human rights and the rule of law; ❖ Police and other security forces exposed to best practices in respect of human rights and the rule of law; ❖ Human rights issues raised in newspapers and public document/fora

Partnership Strategies

UNOL, UNDP, UNICEF and UNHCR will collaborate in this objective; As a basis for the institutionalization of the rule of law, UNDP and UNOL will spearhead the preparation of a peace strategy for Liberia and a national strategy for human rights education; UNICEF will lead the group with the prisons assistance programme, training of police and magistrates in Juvenile

Justice administrations; UNOL will oversee training of the Liberian National Police on issues of human rights and Justice, as well as the dissemination of best practices on human rights and the rule of law. These activities will be undertaken in partnership with government, CSO, NGOs, CBOs, and local community leaders.

The UN Agencies will work together as a team group on the various programme areas; the agency with the highest comparative advantage will take the lead. Agencies will harmonize programming activities, jointly finance implement and monitor activities, share best practices and adopt continuous consultations on critical issues.

Objective 3: Enhancing national capacity for economic management and policy reform

As a result of the devastating civil war, almost all productive activities were disrupted. Most of the manufacturing and industrial infrastructure were destroyed. The Economy is now merely 50% of its pre-war (1988) level, in terms of its gross domestic product. The Country's GDP estimated at US\$508 million in 2001 is about 1/2 of the 1988 GDP of US\$1 billion. The national budget of US\$90.7 million for 2000/2001 is just about 1/3 of the 1988 budget, of US\$340 million. The per capita income dropped from almost US\$340.00 pre-war to US\$199.00 in 2000. The incidence of poverty is pervasive, estimated at 76.2% nation wide, with 52% under severe poverty. Liberia is second to the least in human development with an HDI of 0.276.

The UN System has been contributing to mitigate the difficulties of the Liberian people through capacity building, technical and logistical support for policy reforms. The UN System supported the creation of the Central Bank of Liberia in 1999, and the macro-economic reforms, which among other reforms harmonized the multiple currency system; strengthened commercial banks monitoring and supervisions, and helped to restore some degree of confidence in the Liberia economy. The UN System also contributed to the promulgation of the new tax code for Liberia, and the Liberia's five year Medium Term Plan for Reconstruction and Development (2001-2006), which has an overarching theme of "accelerating the transition from Reconstruction to Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction."

During the UNDAF period, the UN System will endeavor to continue with the above initiatives. Efforts will be made to support capacity building programs for fiscal and budgetary policy reforms, which is essential to ensure public sector accountability and credibility. The UN System will assist in strengthening relevant Ministries and agencies of government for economic analysis and publication of national accounts statistics, aid, flow as well as coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national and donor funded programmes, especially within the context of the Medium Term Plan. With respect to private sector policy reforms, the UN System will support the development of a policy framework for Small and Medium Scale Enterprises and Industry (SME/I), support the strengthening of the trade information center, and the dissemination of best practices on investment contracting and promotion.

ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT/POLICY REFORM	
Proposed activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support capacity building for fiscal and budgetary policy reforms ➤ Support institutional strengthening for economic data collection, analysis and reporting ➤ Support institutional strengthening for aid coordination ➤ Strengthening Planning Units of Ministries and Agencies for coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support the development of a policy framework, and the undertaken of policy reforms on SME/IS ➤ Strengthening the trade information centers (MOC) ➤ Disseminate best practices on Investment contracts, and investment promotion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Transparency and accountability in the management of public funds and resource improved ➤ Quarterly reporting on fiscal policy, economic trends and aid flow and consumer prices and national accounts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SME policy formulated ➤ Trade Information System strengthened ➤ Best practices on Investment disseminated and promoted ➤ Liberia Chamber of Commerce, NIC and National Bidding Commission strengthened. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Improved transparency and accountability in the management of public resources; ❖ Quarterly reports on economic trends, aid flow, CPI and national accounts; ❖ SME/I, Policy Formulated; ❖ Trade Information System strengthened; ❖ Best practices on Investment disseminated and promoted; ❖ Liberia Chambers of Commerce, NIC, National Bidding Commission, Ministry of Finance, Bureau of the Budget, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs strengthened.
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Partnership Strategies

The above objective will be addressed by UNDP, in partnership with the World Bank and the IMF. These Agencies will continue to provide training, technical assistance and capacity building support to the Ministry of Finance and the Bureau of the budget so as to ensure the adoption of internationally accepted fiscal and budgetary policies, accounting and management.

UNDP will also seek the collaboration of UNIDO and the Ministry of Commerce, the Liberia Chamber of Commerce and the National Investment Commission in the formulation of a national policy on SME/I, strengthening the trade information system and the dissemination of best practices in attracting private investment. UNDP will solicit the participation of the IMF/World Bank in institutional support for the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs to ensure quarterly reporting on economic trends, aid flow, CPI and national accounts.

UNDP, the World Bank, the ADB and UNCT will share information on the Liberian Economy and will adopt common strategies for the achievement of desired results. Collaborating partners will review and plan together programmes and activities, jointly finance projects and disseminate information on best practices, progress, and constraints.

Objectives 4: Improve statistical delivery system

The socio-economic statistics of Liberia have been adversely affected by the civil war. Almost all of the statistical records, data processing equipment and basic accessories were destroyed during the period of the war. As a result of the above coupled with the loss of the state due to the death and displacement, the statistical institutional memory has been severely weakened. This has affected the delivery of statistical information for policy formulation.

The authority to collect, analyze and disseminate statistical information rest not only with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs, but also with many other agencies. According to the MTP, most of these agencies (public and private) collect, compile and disseminate statistical information in a largely uncoordinated and fragmented manner. The objective of the government in this direction is to establish a uniform statistical data management mechanism that will ensure the production and publication of reliable, comprehensive and coordinated national socio-economic statistical formation on a regular and timely basis for policy, decision making, and planning purposes.

The UN system has assisted the government through the Ministries of Planning and Economic Affairs with the development of a national statistical act for the creation of a National Office of Statistics (NOS), which has been forwarded to the National Legislature for enactment. The UN System has also provided logistical support and assisted the Ministry in undertaken the Liberia Demographic and Health Survey, which engendered most current and reliable data on Liberia. The UN System intends to continue with this effort in Liberia, supporting national consensus, strategic studies and surveys with the view to strengthening the national statistical base of Liberia.

Statistical Delivery System	
Proposed activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support national censuses ➤ Support the strengthening of the National office of Statistics (NOS) ➤ Support Strategic studies/surveys for database development and policy formulation
Indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A nation-wide census conducted ➤ National Office of Statistics strengthened ➤ Periodic Studies/surveys undertaken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A nationwide census conducted; ❖ National office of Statistics (MPEA) strengthened; ❖ Period studies/surveys undertaken.

Partnership Strategies

UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and FAO will collaborate in conducting a nationwide census in Liberia; periodic surveys/studies will be undertaken from time to time in partnership with the relevant agencies. The Agencies will provide technical and logistical support to the National Statistical Office (MPEA). The World Bank and the IMF will be requested to participate in providing technical and financial assistance in national accounts and CPI database development. The UN Agencies working as a team will plan and support the data base development. UNFPA will lead the effort of conducting a nationwide census, which has not taken place for over 17 years.

THEME 3: FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY

Goal : to improve living conditions of the poor and to create opportunities for sustainable livelihoods

The Liberian agriculture sector is comprised of a modernizing and a traditional subsistent farming. The modernizing farms, which consist of large plantations and mostly owned and operated by foreigners, produce crops basically for export; while the traditional subsistent farms provide livelihood for about 81.2 percent of the rural population with few or no cash transactions. The average size of the traditional farm plots is about one acre, (CCA1997). Production on these farm plots is very low and seasonal. It is mainly for domestic consumption and often cannot last up to next farming season, which indicates that majority of households can barely provide for their annual consumption needs. Therefore hunger is pervasive. Hunger is the most critical manifestation of poverty in Liberia. Majority of households in Liberia is food poor. Hunger causes mal-nutrition, illness and death. It robs people off their capacities to work, learn and provide a decent living.

Rice is the main staple food in Liberia, and it accounts for about 80 percent of daily food intake in the average household. Food sufficiency in Liberia is therefore broadly equated with 'rice availability' in sufficient quantity to meet daily dietary needs. Households that fall short of the daily minimum rice intake are generally regarded as food poor, even when caloric intake from non-rice sources is above the survival minimum of 1,500 kcal.

Before the civil war, Liberia had one of the highest per capita consumption rates of rice (110 kgs.). In 1980, small holders supplied about 65 percent (80 percent upland rice and 20 percent swamp) of the rice consumption needs, and the balance (35 percent) met by food imports (CCA1997). While self-provisioning rural dwellers met almost all of their needs from own production, 82 percent of urban needs were met directly by imports. By 1990 the self-sufficiency in rice, which stood at 65 percent of the national requirements in the 1980s declined to 60 percent and the balance 40 percent was imported. This self-sufficiency in rice further decreased to less than 10 percent in 1991, resulting into the gap being filled by massive importation relief food, including rice. Thus, immediately aftermath the war, imports were the main source of rice supply. Except for small-scale cross border trade, rice is not exported from Liberia.

Food insecurity is worsening in Liberia, especially for the large population of rural and poor urban households. Food production, rice production in particular, is declining due to the resumption of hostilities in the northwestern part of the country; thus, causing farmers to abandon their farming activities in Lofa and Gbarpolu Counties, which are widely regarded as the 'bread basket' of the country. In other adjacent areas such as Bong, Nimba, Bomi and Cape Mount counties, the fear of war has also caused farmers to abandon their farms. Consequently there is an increase in the caseload of IDPs most of whom are rural farmers, including women and children. The effect of these mass movements is a decrease in food production.

Apart from the foregoing, food production is also suffering from a number of factors which include low productivity of farmland due to lack of fertilizers, land degradation and the lack of modern/improved farming practices and inputs, lack of markets and micro-enterprise financing facilities, access roads and price incentives, and except pronouncements by Government, there is no comprehensive policy for the development of the agriculture sector. These situations are further exacerbated by the lack of appropriate extension services and post-harvest technologies. The destructive effects of the seven-year (1989-1996) civil war damaged the agricultural sector, resulting to displacement of the farming population, loss of lives and properties, including infrastructure, tools and planting materials, and health, educational, water and sanitation

facilities, thereby reducing the delivery of social services needed rural dwellers. The decline in the delivery of social services, especially health and educational services as well as the limited access to water and sanitation facilities also serves as disincentive for rural dwellers, particularly farmers, and has contributed to the migration of rural dwellers to urban areas.

KEY CHALLENGES

The key challenges to be addressed during the UNDAF period are as follows:

- Resettling and reintegrating internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees;
- Establishing sustainable peace and security in the northwestern part of the country;
- Formulating and developing policy for the development of the agriculture sector;
- Providing accessible, efficient and affordable social services for rural dwellers, particularly the poor rural farmers; and
- Creating an enabling environment for food production and micro-enterprise activities.

Realizing the importance of food security and access to health, education, water and sanitation, the Liberian Government has over the past five years taken the following in order to boost food production and to increase the rate of access to health, education, water and sanitation in the country:

- Provided support or seek support for the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) to ensure the provision of adequate high yielding and diseased resistant seeds and seedlings;
- With the help of development partners, undertook an agricultural assessments and studies to determine the general level of food and crop production in the country;
- Conducted a series of workshops with the view of developing a National Plan of Action on Agriculture and devise strategies to enhance the process leading to self-sufficiency in food production and the overall improvement of the nation's agricultural system;
- In collaboration with the Republic of China, established pilot farms (lowland) for rice production, seed multiplication and demonstration of improved farming methods;
- With the help of development partners, rehabilitated health and educational facilities throughout the country as well as train health and educational workers;
- With the help of development partners, rehabilitated and constructed hand pumps and vip latrines throughout the country as well as train community based operators to mend the facilities; and
- With the help of development partners, conducted the 1999/2000 National Demographic and Health Survey and other nutrition surveys as well as surveillances on critical epidemics in the country.

THE UN SYSTEM RESPONSE

The UN System in Liberia, particularly FAO, UNHCR, UNOMIL, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNDP and WFP, working closely with Government and NGOs (INGOs and LNGOs) has over the past years provided support for the following activities:

- Farming inputs such as tools, seeds and seedlings for the farmers and returnees;
- Training for farmers and the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture;
- Providing logistical supports for the Central Agricultural Research Institute (CARI) in order to conduct researches and provide adequate high yielding seeds and seedlings for farmers;
- Providing food-for-work ration for farmers;
- Conducting studies and surveys on food production levels as well as other agricultural activities;
- Developing of National Plan of Action on Agriculture;
- Community based agricultural projects in order to improve the household food security;
- Rehabilitating health and educational facilities, including providing drugs, medical equipment and educational supplies, as well as the training of health and educational workers;
- Rehabilitating and constructing hand pumps and vip latrines as well as training community based operators who are responsible for the maintenance of the hand pumps and the vip latrines; and
- Conducting the 1999/2000 Liberia Demographic and Health Survey and other surveys in the health, education and agriculture sectors.

The main goal of the United Nations is to improve the living conditions of the poor and to create opportunities for sustainable livelihoods for the Liberian people.

Objective 1: Improving Household Food Security and Nutrition Levels and increase Income from Agriculture Sector

The incidence of food insecurity and poverty is severe in the rural areas, where 57.5 percent of the population resides in rural communities with farming as the main source of livelihood. Approximately 86.3 percent of the rural population falls below the poverty line with 64. percent of this population living in severe poverty on less than \$.50 US cents daily. On the other side, poverty in urban areas is less severe owing mainly to a higher degree of commercialization and heterogeneity in sources of income (from formal and informal jobs).

About 76 percent of the population falls below the poverty threshold, living on less than US\$1 per day. Poverty affects the most productive segments of the population. Of the household heads falling below the poverty line, 60 percent are within the age group of 25-44 years. This implies

that the most active segment of the labor force is affected by poverty. Poverty in Liberia afflicts people in all social strata of the population. These include professionals, and unskilled workers like farmers and single headed households.

Malnutrition is prevalent in Liberia, especially among children and mothers in the rural areas. Improving the nutritional levels in Liberia will require improvement in the household food security situation. Food security, which involves the provision and supply of adequate quantities of safe and nutritious foods, which meets daily needs, must be improved and available. In this regard farm incomes of the poor must be prioritized. Agriculture incomes will need to be increased.

The UN system will support Liberia's efforts by contributing to the development of a comprehensive agriculture policy, assisting in the provision of basic agriculture inputs, promote the adoption of extension services and appropriate technologies for increased and improved food production. Other areas of support include the development of an agriculture database and the adoption of post harvest technologies to reduce post harvest losses as well as assist in the diversification of the economy.

Proposed activities

- Contribute to the development of a comprehensive policy on Agriculture;
- Support to the provision of basic agricultural inputs
- Promote adapted improved technologies of food production
- Support sustainable livestock and fisheries programmes
- Promote Animal husbandry to improve nutrition
- Support to post-harvest activities (storage, processing and marketing)
- Support the development of Agriculture database
- Promote sustainable management of forestry

Indicators:

- National Agriculture Policy developed
- Food crops, livestock and fisheries production increased
- Appropriate post-harvest technology and extension services adopted
- 45% of the rural households engaged in agricultural activities and self sufficient

Partnership Strategy

The UN System, particularly FAO, UNDP, UNOPS, WHO, UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, and UNFPA, will support the production of food, including livestock and fisheries, and the reduction of poverty in the country, particularly in the rural areas. The System, with FAO taking the lead, will support the provision of farm inputs, such as tools, seeds and seedlings; training for farmers and agriculture extension agents; access of roads; and micro-financing opportunities for farmers, especially women farmers. The System will also support the development of comprehensive agriculture policy and appropriate technology in order to reduce post-harvest losses; rehabilitation of health and educational facilities, so as to make them accessible, efficient and affordable to rural dwellers and poor population; and rehabilitation and construction of hand pumps and vip latrines in rural areas as well as in urban slumps.

Objective 2: Supporting Micro-enterprise Financing and Private Sector Initiatives

- **60% of the targeted population having access to micro-credit**
- **40% of beneficiaries of micro-credit engaged in small scale income generating activities**

The multi-dimensional linkages between poverty and human development are complex. In Liberia, about 85 percent of the labor force is unemployed. This means that they have no jobs in the formal sector of the economy, which includes (public sector, private, and industry). Only about 15 percent of the population is employed in the formal sector. This percentage is now growing due to the unsustainable growth in public sector employment. Job creation in the private sector is still below pre-war level. Private sector enterprises were dominant employers prior to the civil war and accounted approximately for employment of 170 – 200,000 persons compared with 90,000 persons or about 45 percent of its pre-war level in 2000.

Due to the lack of employment opportunities in the formal sector, the informal sector has developed rapidly as the alternative source of employment. The importance of the informal sector extends beyond the mere provision of jobs and employment. It provides a point of entry into other economic activities such as manufacturing and the service sector. The informal sector is comprised mainly of micro-enterprises, a subsistent enterprising sector, which has become the bedrock of the survival of the urban poor. The active participants in this sector are mostly illiterate women and girls who lack the capacity to provide the requisite bank collateral to access formal banking loan/credit facilities.

However, in an effort to promote the development of the informal sector from its rudimentary state, the participants in this sector have organized credit systems that operate both as savings and loan entities. These are known as Susu Clubs. It operates on a rotational basis among the members.

The development of the formal and informal sectors of the economy is hampered by a number of constraints. Principal among these includes the cost of business transactions and limited access to credit facilities. Others are bureaucratic red tapes, the lack of physical infrastructure, cumbersome commercial and judicial systems, uncoordinated policies and regulation, and socio-cultural impediments.

Indeed higher economic growth is key to the reduction of poverty and sustainable human development. Therefore the government must endeavor to remove constraints that impede the development of private sector and job creation by creating the appropriate policy framework and conducive enabling environment. Policies that aim at restoring and promoting macro-economic stability must be formulated and implemented including introduction of schemes that will enhance the development of the informal sector.

The UN System has provided and undertaken critical assistance in the areas of private sector development and through the provision and extension of micro-credits and grants in various parts of the country. These efforts will be continued (extended and broadened). Therefore the UN System will continue to undertake to provide micro-credit and grant facilities to encourage the development of micro-enterprises in the areas of cash crop production, petty trade and the establishment of small industries in productive sectors and parts of the country.

Proposed activities:

- Promote the exportation of locally produced products
- Provide micro-credit facilities to encourage the development of microenterprises (cash crops, petty trade, small industries)

Indicators:

- % of the targeted population having access to microcredit
- % of beneficiaries of microcredit engaged in small scale income generating activities

Partnership Strategy

The development of the formal and informal sectors of the economy will involve direct and indirect assistance and support to individuals and business establishments in various stages of development, i.e. new and or ongoing. In this connection, the UN System, especially UNDP, will facilitate the development of the private sector of the economy where real jobs are created. The UNDP, WHO and UNICEF, with UNDP taking the lead, will support the provision of micro-credit facilities for small scale traders and household farmers, particularly women in order to engage in small scale income generating activities

Objective 3a:

Supporting Health Sector Recovery

- **Improved access of the population to health facilities**
- **Produced and disseminated IEC materials on family planning and social welfare**
- **50% of health workers trained in priority diseases prevention and control**

Providing an accessible, efficient and affordable health delivery system in both rural and urban areas is a critical challenge for reducing poverty. However health care delivery services and facilities are skewed towards urban areas, especially Monrovia. Moreover funding for the health sector by Government is dwindling. While the NGO's are actively involved in the restoration of health infrastructures mainly in the rural parts, the government is incapacitated providing the requisite trained health personnel with appropriate incentives. Hence the resultant rapid departures of health personnel from the public health care delivery system.

However, the Private sector continues to provide the bulk of health care delivery services, which of course, is in accessible to the larger portion of the population due to the high costs and the incidence of choking poverty mainly in rural areas.

The main health policy challenges of government cover six broad areas: (i) Health Promotion and Protection, which emphasizes the dissemination (information, education, and communication (IEC)) of healthy ways of life for all; (ii) The production of health and vital statistics, which is weak and needs improvement in all aspects; (iii) Food and nutrition. There is still high rate of malnutrition. There is inadequate knowledge about proper nutritional practices and the need to reduce micronutrient deficiencies. Under-nutrition is widespread with about 39 percent of children under five years of age stunted, 6 percent under age five years are wasted that is thin and 26 percent underweight. Malnutrition is more prevalent in rural areas, in children of non-educated mothers, in children who are taken care of by someone else other than their natural mother, in children who are not well taken care of in terms of cleanliness, and in children from relatively poorer households. There is a prevalence of iron deficiency anemia among children and women, especially pregnant women in Liberia; (iv) Disease Control and Prevention- The control and prevention of communicable diseases, especially STDs/HIV/AIDS, is of concern and top priority of Government; (v) Social Survival and Special Protection intervention embodies the need to reduce the vulnerabilities of persons in difficult circumstances, care and special protection and support for the sensory and physically handicapped; and (vi) Human Resources Development- The availability of highly trained health personnel impacts positively the quality of health delivery system. The provision of suitable and timely training programs for all categories of health workers is important.

Health

Proposed activities:

- Rehabilitate health facilities (such as clinics and health centers) and strengthen capacity in the management of equipment, drugs and training of health workers.
- Support family and social welfare programs

Indicators:

- Improved access of the population to health facilities
- IEC materials on family and social welfare produced and disseminated
- % of health workers trained in priority diseases prevention and control;

Partnership Strategy

The role of the UN System, particularly WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP, in the Health Sector is to assist the government in promoting and enhancing the quality of the health of the population of the Country as well as sustaining the environment, which supports their livelihoods. Therefore UN Theme partners will develop cooperating strategies that will foster the implementation of joint programs and parallel programs that will be geographically targeted. UNFPA in partnership with other agencies of the UN System will provide support for programs in reproductive health. While WHO and UNICEF will focus its activities on the implementation of the National Health Programs, including the rehabilitation of health facilities and the training of health workers. UNICEF, in collaboration with other UN agencies will enhance the total development and health of children in the country.

Objective 3b: Supporting Education Sector Recovery

- **Education Master Plan being implemented throughout the country**
- **Local school management committees functional**
- **Increased number of trained teachers**
- **Gender and peace education mainstream in the curriculum**
- **Proportion of schools/educational facilities rehabilitated and equiped**

The educational system of Liberia is faced with a number of critical and complex challenges. These include access to education to improve the Gross Enrollment Rates (GER) of the school age population. Currently the GER is recorded as 42 percent, which means that more than 50 percent of the school age population (1,628,726 children) is out of school. Other major challenges include ensuring that female children remain in school. Efforts to enhance improvements in this sector should seek improvements in the standards/relevance and quality of education at all levels in the country. The development of relevant curricula, education materials, libraries, textbooks and appropriate infrastructures are further challenges. Most education infrastructures in the country are converted buildings.

Last and non-the least include the training of teachers, providing incentives and commensurate remuneration. Along with the foregone is allocating adequate resources to the sector. This will also enable the provision of support to the disabled who lack basic training facilities.

Education

Proposed activities:

- Support the implementation of the Education Sector Master Plan
- Rehabilitation of schools
- Training of teachers
- Mainstreaming gender and peace education in the Educational System.

Indicators:

- Education Master Plan being implemented throughout the country
- Local school management committees functional
- Increased number of trained teachers
- Gender and peace education mainstream in the curriculum
- Proportion of schools/educational facilities rehabilitated and equipped.

Partnership Strategy

To ensure the fulfillment of the right to education of every Liberian child, the UN System, particularly UNDP and UNICEF will focus on a number of critical support areas. These include providing support to the implementation of the Education Master Plan, undertake the rehabilitation of schools, train teachers and mainstream gender and peace education in education curricula of all schools, including public and private. The System will also support the provision of classroom educational materials and supplies.

<p>Objective 3c: <u>Supporting Water and Sanitation Sector Recovery</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wells fitted with hand pumps in the rural areas and urban communities • Increased number of community members trained in hand pumps maintenance, and construction of latrines
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The provision of safe drinking water and sanitation in Liberia constitutes associated challenges for the health conditions of the population. Only about 1.9 percent of households in Liberia has access to pipe borne water in their dwellings. About 9.3 percent has access to pipe borne water from a public tap or a neighboring dwelling, making a total of 11.2 percent. In the rural areas, about 4.1 percent have access to pipe borne water. On the whole 82 percent of all households depend on wells, springs, ponds and rivers as sources of drinking water and about 28 percent of these sources are protected. In both urban and rural areas, about 56 percent of the population take up to 10 minutes per trip to their major sources of water.

Sanitary conditions in the country also present critical challenges considering its implication for the health of the population. About 26 percent of all households have access to modern toilet facilities (flush toilets & latrines) and 66 percent use the bushes, streams, rivers, ponds, beaches or dug holes to dispose of human excrement. Garbage is mostly disposed of by dumping it in open spaces and in the bushes most often close to homes and residential areas. This form of garbage disposal is practiced by about 99 percent of households in the country.

This alarming poor state of water and sanitation conditions is further worsened by the non-functioning of the Monrovia Sewage System and the Liberia Water and Sewage System, which are in various states of disrepair, as well as the incapacity of the Monrovia City Corporation to dispose of garbage on a regular basis. However, government considers the lack of these services and facilities as critical development challenges and constraints and thus a major imperative.

Water and sanitation

Proposed activities:

- Increase the availability of clean and safe drinking water for the population
- Rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities, especially in the rural and urban slums

Indicators:

- Wells fitted with hand pumps in the rural areas and urban communities;

- Increased number of community members trained in hand pump maintenance, and the construction of latrines;

Partnership Strategy

Towards this end, the UN System, especially UNDP, WHO and UNICEF will support the provision of clean and safe drinking water for the population and the rehabilitation and construction of hand pumps and community latrines. The System will support the training of community members in hand pump maintenance and construction of latrines as well as the provision of simple tools, such as shovels, wheelbarrows, etc., for the maintenance of sanitary facilities.

Objective 3d: <u>Supporting Access Sector Recovery</u>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of market facilities • Improved circulation and distribution of goods |
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Inaccessibility is a major impediment to national development and economic growth in Liberia. Most villages and towns including rural cities are accessible by footpaths and by walking. About 90 percent of the population walks to and from destinations. Even in urban areas, about 45 percent also walk. This mode of transport clearly indicates that only a limited quantity of farm produce can reach markets in the country. Rural farmers with limited income cannot afford high transport costs of vehicles due to poverty.

Poverty is predominantly a rural phenomenon in Liberia. Majority of the rural poor depend directly or indirectly on their farms as a sources of income. Encouraging this huge labor force to effectively participate in the growth of the economy poses the challenge to encourage the rural farmers to efficiently use their assets and the expansion of access of the rural farmers to land, credit, infrastructure (markets & roads) are other productive inputs such as extension services, improved seeds, farming practices and technology.

The development of rural Liberia needs the strong provision and support of rural infrastructure as well as making technological innovations accessible to the rural farmers. Access to better and improved infrastructure can lead to productivity in the rural areas and enhance strong market linkages. In this regard, the government is faced with the challenge of rehabilitating the feeder roads and farm to market roads. Most of these road are passable seasonally and have not been rehabilitated. Bridges are also in various states of disrepair. Even the major highways that are primary trunk roads are in need of rehabilitation.

Access

Proposed activities:

- Support Communities effort in rehabilitating access roads/bridges
- Rehabilitation of market facilities

Indicators:

- Increased number of market facilities
- Improved circulation and distribution of goods

Partnership Strategy

In this endeavor, the UN System, particularly UNDP, UNHCR, FAO, and WHO will support community efforts in rehabilitating access roads/bridges and markets. Access is a cross cutting phenomenon. The lack of access to basic needs, services and facilities affects the development and progress of the human being. It therefore constitutes the rationale for development. All of the UN Theme Partners have stake in the accessibility of their respective interventions. In this

connection, collaborative efforts, joint programming, cost sharing and co-financing mechanisms will ensure the success of the UN Theme Partners interventions. The provision of increase income through the rehabilitation of feeders and farm to market roads as well as markets to the rural dwellers to enable and empower them participate in the economy, the essence of development, the raison d'être for the UN System. The UNDP is expect to the lead the coordination of this program.

THEME 4: REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, COMBATING HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

Goal: to improve life expectancy and to contain the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases

Reproductive Health

...

HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS prevalence is estimated at 8.2%, rising from approximately 2% in 1999. The high incidence of poverty, and massive movement of people (including peace keepers) to and from the countries with high prevalence of HIV/AIDS during the period of the civil war (1989-1996) the rapid increase in the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Liberia. The sero-prevalence of 8.2% is very high for a small country with a population of 2.7 million.

The potential for an upsurge in the prevalence of HIV/AIDS does exist, due to the disintegration of the institutions of the family during the war. Also, culturally the women lack control over their sexual/reproduction health, which make many of them susceptible to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

The trend towards early sexual experience (minimum age 8 years) combined with limited access to basic social services and IEC has increased the risk of teenagers to STDs/HIV/AIDS. The high risk groups are commercial sex workers (CSWs), homosexuals and long distances drivers.

The major challenges facing HIV/AIDS control efforts in Liberia include the following:

- ❖ Ensuring the provision of adequate research facilities to be able to differentiate vital sub-types in the country;
- ❖ Sustaining IEC and awareness on HIV/AIDS;
- ❖ Tackling the issues of poverty,
- ❖ Reducing women literacy, and empowering women on their sexual rights.

Malaria and other priority diseases

THE UN SYSTEM RESPONSE

The instrument of information dissemination and awareness creation remains the most effective strategy for HIV/AIDS prevention and control.

Working in partnership with the government, the National AIDS and STD Control Program (NACP), the Family Planning Association of Liberia (FPAL), the Christian Health Association of Liberia (CHAL), among other NGOs, the UN Agencies are supporting efforts aim at controlling HIV/AIDS, malaria and priority diseases, through IEC and related activities both in print and electronic media), vulnerable group targeted workshops, health education, distribution of condoms, and youth education through the Ministry of Education POPFLE in the curriculum for high school students. Almost every health post in Liberia carries HIV/AIDS prevention and control messages; as well as malaria and other disease. The UN System is also supporting the rehabilitation of health facilities and the provision of essential drugs, equipment and the training of health workers.

During the UNDAF period, the UN System will intensify its campaign on the control and prevention of HIV/AIDS/STDs. The focus will be on four key objectives: IEC campaign, National policy development, reproductive health services, and fertility programs.

Objective 1: Promoting advocacy and awareness (IEC) on HIV/AIDS prevention, control of priority diseases and reproductive health for behavioral changes.

HIV/AIDS

The knowledge about the spread of HIV/AIDS has not reached most of the population, especially in the rural areas. According to the LDHS, most of the people that have heard about HIV/AIDS, 81% nationwide do not believe that it is sexually transmitted. It is estimated that less than 30% of the people in Lofa, Margibi and Grand Cape Mount Counties know that HIV/AIDS is sexually transmitted. More than 50% of people believe that HIV/AIDS can be cured by a medical doctor; while another 15.4% believe that HIV/AIDS can be cured by a spiritualist or faith healer. Cultural practices such as traditional markings and FGM increase the risk of young people acquiring HIV/AIDS. The challenge is therefore to intensify and increase the coverage of HIV/AIDS Control and prevention campaign, mainly to the rural areas. During the UNDAF period, the UN System will increase the production and dissemination of IEC materials on HIV/AIDS prevention and control nationwide, using the media and dramas.

MALARIA ...

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ...

Proposed activities:

- Increase the production and dissemination of IEC materials on HIV/AIDS and malaria prevention and control and other priority disease

Indicators:

- IEC Materials available
- Awareness campaigns conducted in English and local languages
- Increase prevention of HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases
- Better knowledge of HIV/AIDS and mitigated stigmatization

Partnership Strategy

Combating HIV/AIDS remains a priority amongst UN System interventions. UN Agencies will endeavor to jointly programme and implement activities on the field; complementarity of activities. WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF and the UN Team Group on HIV/AIDS will play a lead role in the execution of this objective. UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO in collaboration with NGOs, CSOs, community groups and government, will undertake a nationwide information dissemination campaign, production of IEC materials, capacity building on HIV/AIDS patients care, prevention and control methods.

Objective 2: Supporting policy planning and the development of treatment protocol for HIV/AIDS

Although 81% of the population of Liberia is of the existence of HIV/AIDS, little has been done at the highest level in government to develop and educate the population on National Policy on HIV/AIDS. At present, testing for HIV/AIDS is voluntary, and if done unknown to the patients, the information is not release. The Public tends to demonstrate a negative reaction against HIV/AIDS patients. This has implications for employment and the welfare of the patient, family

and orphans. Therefore, during the UNDAF period, the UN system will assist the government in developing a national policy on HIV/AIDS and a treatment protocol. These instruments will encourage more disclosures and effective management of the HIV/AIDS cases in Liberia.

Proposed activities:

- Institutional Support for the development of a national policy on HIV/AIDS;
- Engendering consultation, leading to the preparation and adoption of treatment protocol for HIV/AIDS;

Indicators:

- National Policy on HIV/AIDS promulgated;
- Treatment protocol on HIV/AIDS developed and adopted;

Objective 3: improving access to reproductive health commodities and services and support to HIV/AIDS infected persons

There are many perceptions and misconceptions about HIV/AIDS in Liberia. There is a need to fight the notion that getting close to, or caring for person(s) with HIV/AIDS will eventually lead to the infection of the caretakers. Family members, relatives, friends, employers and the general public tend to avoid people known to be infected with HIV/AIDS because of fear of getting infected. Increased awareness on the mode of transmission and method of care for HIV/AIDS patients is necessary so as to reduce the impact of the disease on the patients and family members. HIV/AIDS patients should be encouraged to speak out on the status of their health to demystify the notion that having HIV means immediate death.

During the period of the UNDAF, the UN system will focus on counseling and home based care for AIDS victims. Isolating HIV/AIDS patients from their families and communities is most likely to increase their depression and aggravate their conditions. Patients and family members need to be reassured that life does not automatically end because HIV/AIDS has been diagnosed.

Proposed activities:

- Counseling and home based care for AIDS infected persons

Indicators:

- HIV/AIDS infected persons reassured
- Increased acceptability of AIDS infected persons;

Partnership Strategy

Increasing the awareness on the need to care for HIV/AIDS infected persons required partnership with family members and the community. During the UNDAF period, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, NGOS and CBOs, National AIDS Control Program, and families of HIV/AIDS patients will work together. Programs on counseling and home based care will be developed and implemented. Program activities of each agency will be complementary, reinforcing and controlling their intervention UNDP will join the team on a community wide basis contributing to fighting poverty through support to income generating activities; to empowering the poor to care for infected family members in the community.

Objective 4: support to reproductive health, life expectancy and fertility programs

The population of Liberia is estimated at 2.7 million. Liberia has a very young population and a high age-dependency burden. About 48% of the population is under 15 years, with only 3.4% of them being 65 years and over. The sex ratio is 99.5 males against 100 females.

The reproductive sex life begins at a very early age, in some instances at the age of 8 years. According to the LDHS, males (26%) and females (59%) would have had their first pregnancy and/or a child between the ages 13-24 years. Over one-half of girls had sexual intercourse before age 16 years; while boys before the age of 18 years. Over 95% of females and 85% of males had sexual intercourse by age 20.

About 36.8% of pregnant women sought antenatal care between 3-6 months of their pregnancy. Antenatal services are provided by nurses, 44%; doctors 29.4%; physician assistants, 20%; and TBA, 5%. Some women do not seek antenatal care because of the lack of money, the non-existence of a health facility, or the facility is just too faraway from the village of the pregnant woman. These conditions thus contribute to the high maternal mortality rate in Liberia, 578/100,000 (rural areas, 598/100,000 and urban, 381/100,000). Maternal mortality is primarily due to anemia, postpartum hemorrhage, sepsis, pregnancy-related complications, and toxemia and infections associated with abortions.

The gross insufficiency of midwifery and medical staff, and the limited functional health facilities through the country severely limit access to quality maternal and child health care services, thus contributing to the high infant, child and maternal mortality rates.

The major causes of infant and childhood mortality are malnutrition, neonatal tetanus, measles, acute respiratory infection (ARI), malaria and diarrhea. The immunization of children (age 12-23 months) against the childhood illnesses such as whooping cough, diphtheria, tuberculosis, tetanus, poliomyelitis and measles is about 33%. Immunization against polio has however increased due to the campaign 'kick polio out of Liberia.' The overall low immunization level also explains the high infant mortality rate in Liberia, estimated as 117/1000 live birth. The under-reporting of infant deaths may account for the _____ infant mortality figure.

Pervasive poverty, the disruption of family structures and the profound erosion of cultural and societal norms and values contribute to the high teen-age pregnancies and prostitution. One in every 10 males and one in every 13 females exchange sex for money, gifts and favors. With little formal education (24%) and marketable skills, single girls and mothers are ill-equipped to adequately care for themselves and other offsprings. About 10% of males and females report penis and vagina discharge due to diseases. The uses of contraceptives, for instance pills and condoms is very low. About 6.6% females used the condoms on occasion. The acceptance of family planning is limited in Liberia. The average woman bears a little over six children during her child-bearing period (15-40 years). Fertility is lower in the urban areas, and amongst women with a minimum high school education.

UN System Response

The UN system, through UNFPA and UNDP are working with government and other bilateral and multilateral agencies to continue to promote and enhance programmes to ensure balanced socio-economic development and population growth. One of the instruments developed prior to the civil war was the National Population Policy. The objective of the policy was to foster a balanced relationship between population and socio-economic growth; reducing total fertility and population over shoot through voluntary regulation of fertility and reproduction health.

A national plan of action was formulated following the ratification of the national population policy, covering the following major programs: Maternal and child health, family planning and

fertility regulations, IEC, the role and status of women, children and youth, and spatial distribution and urbanization. During the UNDAF period, the UN system will endeavor to continue with providing assistance in re-productive health with the view of improving life expectancy, family planning compliance, and reducing teenage pregnancies, maternal and infant mortality.

Partnership strategy

With about 42% of the population falling within the productive age group (15-49 years), emphasis will be placed on the delivery of comprehensive reproductive health services.

Since the high Maternal and Infant Mortality are attributed to increases in illegal abortion, infertility and STDs (HIV/AIDS) among young adults, emphasis will also be placed on prevention and control of substance abuse, STI/HIV/AIDS, through primary education program (PEP), and the Population Family Life Education (POPFLE).

UNFPA, WHO, UNDP, UNICEF will take the lead in promoting and implementing family health services, disease control and prevention, and related programmes and activities. These programmes shall be implemented in partnership with government, CSOs, NGOs CBOs, and communities. UN Agencies shall work as a team in planning, implementing, monitoring, and complementing projects

Proposed activities:

- Pursue life expectancy programs
- Support family planning
- Address teenagers pregnancy issue

Indicators:

- Fertility conditions improved
- MMR reduced
- Life Expectancy increased
- Decrease in the number of teenagers pregnancy

THEME 5: CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

Objective 1: Gender Equity and women empowerment

Globally, there is mounting concern about the gender inequality and the low socio-economic status of women. In Liberia, illiteracy rate among women and girls is very high. Women constitute about half of the population and only 24% are literate, compared to 50% for males, 40% and 32% enrollments in primary and secondary school respectively, compared to 60% and 68% for males. About 35% of household is headed by poor young women, which make them vulnerable and exposed to growing violence and HIV/AIDS. Over 80% of rural women depend on subsistence farming and play a major role in food production, processing and marketing. There are no clear policy measures in Liberia to promote gender equity and commit resources for gender mainstreaming. There are structural gender biases in the development process with requires the creation of an enabling environment and direct increase to women's ability and quality of life. As farmers, Liberian women are custodians of the environment as they manage and preserve biodiversity. Women's role in agriculture and in other aspects of rural sector have had an impact on food security. It is wealth noting that women fended for their families during the seven years of civil war. They have become persistent in search for peace and stability through national and regional initiatives such as the Mano River Women Peace Network.

Proposed activities:

- Promote women empowerment
- Promote access to microcredit
- Promote girls enrollment in schools
- Advocacy for the rights of the Liberian women (land property and inheritance rights)
- Trauma counseling for women victims of rape and violence

Indicators:

- Increased participation of women in decisions making process
- Increased rate of women literacy
- Increased enrollement rate of girls in schools
- Increased self sufficiency of women headed households

Partnership Strategy

UNICEF implements an education programme giving priority to girls education.

HCR conducts awareness campaigns on gender based violence in refugee camps and provides day care to refugee women.

FAO supports rural women's organizations.

UNDP and WHO support microcredit programme focusing on women.

Objective 2: promote child protection

Liberia has a relatively young population. About 46.8% of the household population is less than 15 year old. The primary school age population (6-12) is 25.5% of the total population, while children of secondary school age (13-18) account for 10.6%. Due to the disruption in the school activities as the result of the civil war, about 36.6 % of children age 5-11 year and about 63.4 % of children in the ages 12-24 years are currently attending primary school. The situation of children out of school due to various reasons is having a negative impact on the growing young generation. During arm conflict, children are conscripted to serve at battle field as cannon fodders, while some engage in fierce combat. UNDP provided support to Government for the

demobilisation of these ex-combatants and to reintegrate them into society. With the renewed fighting in Northern Liberia, children out of school have become vulnerable for conscription. The need for child rights and protection is critical and needs to be redressed through media campaign and legislation.

Children in the region are involved in peace building through regional initiative such as the Mano River Youth Network. This initiative would be supported and encouraged by UNDP and UNOL.

Proposed activities:

- Education on children rights (media campaigns)
- Support child care programmes (Day care and health services)
- Community based rehabilitation and care for marginalized and disabled children
- Address teenagers pregnancy issue

Indicators:

- Child abandonment reduced
- Child vulnerability to violence and abuse reduced
- Number of day cares and orphanage homes supported.
- Specialized care institutions strengthened

Partnership strategy

UNICEF implements a child protection programme and early childhood development and care program.

UNHCR implements child care programs in refugee camps.

Orphans

UNICEF has specific programs targeting orphans by war and by HIV/AIDS. Orphans are part of UNICEF protection activities. UNICEF supports specialized care institutions and concurrently advocates for adoption and supports the reintegration of orphans into communities.

Objective 3 : Improve environmental and natural resources management

Liberia has rich biodiversity with many natural resources that could contribute immensely to the socio-economic well being of the nation. About 43% of the Upper Guinea Forest is maintained by Liberia. Since the civil war, these resources are under increased pressure for various reasons. Activities that are contributing to the destruction of the forests are excessive logging, farming and settlements. Charcoal and firewood are alternative means of energy. Their production has become viable economic activity and rapidly becoming an industry. Wooden poles and naturally regenerated trees are cut down and exported as log or used as local materials. Huge urban migration is severely exerting pressure on limited resource and infrastructure. There is corresponding increase in unregulated waste dumped. In order to redress these environmental problems, the Government with the assistance of UNDP prepared Environmental Legislation, Policy and The State of the Environment. The Government has passed into law many of the Environmental Legislation, including the protocol on Wet-Land. Liberia asserts to the global protocols on the environment, including the convention to combat desertification, the convention on Biological Diversity and Agenda 21. The key outstanding challenges facing Liberia are uncoordinated distribution of tasks on environmental issues among various ministries/agencies and lack of public education.

HCR environmental program.

Proposed activities:

- Promote environmental awareness campaigns (waste collection, sea and river etc.)
- Support the National Environment Commission of Liberia (UNEP project)
- Advocate for the adoption of the environmental laws prepared with the support of UNDP

Indicators:

- Increase awareness of decision makers on environmental concerns
- Increase awareness on environmental best practices
- Environmental laws adopted

Part IV. Implementation Strategy, monitoring and follow up

Part V. Programme Resource Framework

**PROGRAMME RESOURCE FRAMEWORK
INDICATIVE RESOURCE MOBILIZATION US\$'000 (2003-2005)**

UN Agencies	Conflict Resolution peace building and relief	Good Governance	Food security and sustainable Recovery	Reproductive Health HIV/AIDS, malaria and other disease	Cross cutting Is Child rights, Pro Environment)
UNDP					
UNICEF					
UNHCR					
WFP					
WHO					
FAO					
UNFPA					
OCHA					
UNV					
UNEP					
UNAIDS					
UNIFEM					
TOTAL					