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REPORT ON THE JOINT FIELD VISIT TO LIBERIA OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

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This document is submitted to the Executive Board for information.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recovering from a long period of war, Liberia is still a fragile state in transition from an emergency relief situation to development. It continues to rely on the United Nations Mission in Liberia for its security and will do so for the foreseeable future. It also continues to count on donor support to provide basic social services and to rebuild the local economy.

A delegation of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund and WFP visited Liberia from 25 February to 5 March 2007. This delegation met all stakeholders in Liberia, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the United Nations Mission in Liberia, the United Nations country team, Liberian government officials at the national and community levels, United Nations agencies, representatives of the private sector and civil society, and development partners. The team also made county visits to observe ongoing projects at county level.

This visit provided the delegation with the opportunity to take note of the needs, challenges and accomplishments of the Government and the people of Liberia and of the United Nations agencies during this particular period in the areas of peace and security, gender, education, health, capacity-building, governance reform and infrastructure.



I. INTRODUCTION

1. A delegation of 19 members of the Executive Boards¹ of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and WFP made a joint visit to Liberia from 25 February to 4 March 2007.
2. The purpose of the visit was to gain insight into the interface between the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the members of the United Nations Development Group Executive Committee and the specialized agencies. It was also expected that the visit would provide an opportunity to enhance understanding of existing and potential cooperation between the United Nations, international financial institutions, civil society actors and the private sector, the coordination between multilateral and bilateral donors, and the challenges and opportunities of integrated missions, including the question of sustainability.² The visit was also expected to provide the members of the Executive Boards with an opportunity to gain insight into the sub-regional context and challenges.
3. The joint field visit included six elements: (i) a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG), with the United Nations country team (UNCT) and UNMIL; (ii) meetings with Liberian government officials at national and community levels; (iii) briefings by the respective United Nations agencies; (iv) meetings with representatives of the private sector and civil society; (v) on-site county visits to observe ongoing projects at county level; and (vi) meetings with development partners.
4. The team wishes to thank the Government and the people of Liberia for their generous hospitality and for the extensive and fruitful discussions. The delegation would like also to express its appreciation to the SRSG, UNMIL and UNCT for their dedication and excellent organization of this mission, and for their invaluable input to the discussions.

II. BACKGROUND

5. Since the inauguration of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf in January 2006, steady progress has been made in rebuilding Liberia, with the support of the United Nations, bilateral partners and multilateral donors. The mission had the opportunity to meet with President Johnson Sirleaf on 27 February 2007. During this meeting, the President underlined the challenges facing the new Government of Liberia in the areas of peace and

¹ The team leader of the mission was H.E. Paulette Bethel (Bahamas), the chief rapporteur was Mr I. Konfourou (Mali) and the group rapporteurs were Ms D. Mills (Jamaica), Mr J.B. Gutierrez (Guatemala) and Mr N. Orange (Canada).

² Particular attention will be paid to issues relevant to the recommendations presented for consideration by Member States in the High-level Panel on System-Wide Coherence, once the Secretary-General's report is made available and Member States have had an opportunity to respond, discuss and take a position.

security and governance reform, including the judicial system. She emphasized the importance of the regional dimension and recommended that in the context of the United Nations reform, the United Nations should consider assigning regional objectives to the UNCT.

6. At the height of the conflict, 800,000 people were displaced both within and outside the country; 320,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are now back in their villages and 84,000 refugees have been repatriated from neighbouring countries with the help of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); 101,000 children, women and men have gone through the disarmament and demobilization programme; and 75,000 are in reintegration programmes. Children are back in school and immunization programmes are reaching most parts of the country. Despite considerable progress, Liberia still confronts formidable reconstruction and development challenges including high maternal and child mortality rates, high illiteracy and unemployment rates, extreme poverty, weak governance systems, food insecurity, lack of access to basic social services and a debilitated infrastructure, compounded by the significant lack of reliable and updated data in the overall national statistical system. These challenges further compound the fragile situation on the ground, thus requiring appropriate and targeted policy responses and interventions, and sustained engagement between the Liberian people and international partners. Private sector revival, job creation, infrastructure development and needed investments in the education, health and agriculture sectors have to happen simultaneously.
7. The interim Poverty Reduction Strategy (iPRS) marks an important step forward. It represents a collaborative strategy and a starting point for the Government and its partners to work towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals. By all accounts, the iPRS will also set the course for Liberia to move from the immediate post-conflict phase to the path to development. At the same time, Liberia has a double challenge – to fund and implement emergency humanitarian interventions while also funding and implementing sustainable development strategies and programmes. There is grave concern about funding between 2007 and 2009, as emergency-oriented non-governmental organizations (NGOs) leave Liberia before the Government has the capacity to service the basic needs of its people. As the Common Country Assessment (CCA) reports, it is estimated that the United Nations, NGOs and civil society organizations are directly funding 85 percent of activities in the areas of health, education and water and sanitation.
8. Expectations of the new Government are extremely high but its capacity to deliver the most basic social services remains low. The international community therefore needs to remain fully engaged with Liberia in order to build on the progress made to date, with the full ownership and leadership of the Government and people of Liberia.
9. The proposed priorities of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Liberia for 2008–2011 are as follows:
 - (i) capacity to ensure security, respect human rights, manage conflict and prevent violence exists at national and local levels by 2011;
 - (ii) national economic policies and programmes implemented to support equitable, inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development;
 - (iii) democratic, accountable and transparent governance advanced in a participatory and inclusive manner and in accordance with human rights standards by 2011;
 - (iv) improved health and education, with an emphasis on reduced maternal and child mortality and increased learning achievement by 2011; and



- (v) an enabling environment in place and organizational capacities enhanced to improve access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support as well as addressing stigma and discrimination by 2011.
10. The challenges related to the work of the United Nations in this environment are (i) making the transition from relief to development, (ii) moving from an integrated mission to a country team, (iii) addressing concerns related to transaction costs and capacity demands and (iv) ensuring coherent programming while addressing the fragmentation of funding.

III. FINDINGS

11. The joint field visit provided an opportunity for the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP to exchange views with the representatives of the United Nations Integrated Mission, the Government, civil society, development partners, the private sector and NGOs, and to assess the implementation of United Nations projects and programmes throughout the country and the challenges which persist.

UNICEF

12. UNICEF has continued its work as the focal point for promotion of the overall welfare of children in post-conflict Liberia. In this leading role, the objective of UNICEF has been the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by supporting government efforts in the areas of child health and nutrition, basic education, access to safe water and sanitation and the protection of children from violence, exploitation, HIV/AIDS and other preventable diseases. Given the current limited financial and human resources of the Government, UNICEF is playing a vital role in addressing a wide range of the needs of the country's children. The depth and extent of UNICEF engagement in Liberia was apparent in many of the encounters that the mission team had with officials and entities during the visit.
13. Liberia has the world's fifth highest under 5 mortality rate of 235 per 1,000 live births and one of the highest maternal mortality rates. Under these circumstances, the country is unlikely to meet the 2015 MDGs in the areas of child mortality, maternal health, HIV/AIDS and malaria. However, with the support of UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO), Liberia is on track to be polio-free. An aggressive immunization programme increased coverage of three doses of combined diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus vaccine to 88 percent in 2006. An equally aggressive programme for measles vaccination for children under 5 undertaken in January 2007 with support from UNICEF, UNMIL, WHO, other agencies and NGOs and integrated with a package of vitamin A, de-worming and insecticide treated nets resulted in coverage of 97 percent.
14. Other health-related initiatives spearheaded by UNICEF in 2006 included a national tetanus vaccination campaign that reached 300,000 women of child-bearing age; the establishment of five centres for prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV; the distribution of 77,000 mosquito nets to pregnant women and children under five years of age; and the treatment of 1,600 severely malnourished children in therapeutic feeding centres.
15. Currently, fewer than one in four Liberians have access to safe water, resulting in endemic cholera and diarrhoea being responsible for 22 percent of deaths of children under 5. To help alleviate this problem, UNICEF provided wells, hand pumps and latrine



facilities to 1,000 schools in 2006, benefiting 220,000 students; it also provided hygiene skills training for some schools.

16. Although the gender gap in education has been reduced since 1989, the ratio of boys to girls is 3:2 at the primary level and 3:1 at the tertiary level. Prevailing cultural and social conditions, including pressures for girls to work and high rates of teenage pregnancy, are among the reasons for the disparities. It is anticipated that these disparities will decrease following the launch of the Government's Girls' Education National Policy by President Johnson Sirleaf, in April 2006. The policy calls for meeting MDG 2 by providing free and compulsory primary schooling and recruiting and training more women teachers, among other things.
17. UNICEF was able to support the Government's education programmes in 2006 by (i) providing essential learning materials and other supplies for 400,000 students at 2,000 public schools, (ii) training 500 government school teachers and (iii) rehabilitating 16 public elementary schools that serve 3,200 children.
18. Gender-based violence continues to be a major problem: according to the 2004 IDP camp surveys and other surveys and programme data, 75 percent of women and girls experienced some form of sexual violence during and after the war. Despite the adoption in 2005 of a rape law that sentences convicted rapists to life imprisonment, the number of reports of sexual violence against women and children continues to be high, posing a very serious problem for the country. In an effort to develop comprehensive services for victims and survivors of sexual violence, UNICEF supported a safe home which provided 175 survivors, of whom 96 percent were girls aged 7–8 years, with medical and psychosocial care and access to legal aid and other rehabilitation facilities.
19. In cooperation with UNMIL, other UNCT members and NGOs, UNICEF provided many children associated with fighting forces with protective and rehabilitative programmes, including access to basic formal primary education through the Community Education Investment Programme and to skills training. UNICEF also provided a large number of these children with psychosocial support for reintegration into their families and helped to train teachers to address the children's needs as they return to the school environment. Furthermore, UNICEF supported child welfare in 260 villages across the country in 2006.

WFP

20. The presence of WFP in Liberia dates from the 1970s. After 14 years of conflict, the country is beginning to enjoy peace and relative stability. In consequence, WFP is shifting progressively from emergency food aid, including general distributions, to a more development-focused food security programme.
21. A major challenge is the significant lack of reliable data. This has led WFP, in partnership with other stakeholders, to coordinate the recent comprehensive food security and nutrition survey. It is viewed as a major tool in terms of policy-setting and will complement the Government's efforts to develop a food security policy.



22. The food security situation in Liberia is precarious. The major findings of the survey are that 11 percent of households are food-insecure, 40 percent are highly vulnerable and 41 percent are moderately vulnerable to becoming food-insecure; 39 percent of children under 5 are stunted, indicating problems of chronic malnutrition, and 7 percent of children aged 5 are wasted, a sign of acute malnutrition; 27 percent of children are underweight. The country has very low agricultural productivity, resulting in a significant food deficit.
23. Liberia is in a transitional recovery phase. The reality of this translates into minimal government capacity in virtually all sectors of society, further compounded by 85 percent unemployment, poor infrastructure and very poor health services.
24. The consistent message from representatives of the United Nations, NGOs, government officials and beneficiary groups has been clear and constant: despite the official discussions indicating that the country is on the road to development, when it comes to food, Liberia faces continued insecurity and remains in humanitarian and recovery mode. However, because of the impression that the emergency phase is over, humanitarian donor funding is drying up and many NGOs have begun to make plans to leave in the near future.
25. WFP contributes to the Government efforts to achieve universal primary education and attain sustainable food security, while supporting institutional capacity-building and infrastructure development, in line with the following strategic objectives: (i) general food distributions; (ii) food for recovery as an investment to rebuild and protect human and productive assets; (iii) maternal and child health interventions to improve the nutrition and health status of children, mothers and other vulnerable groups; (iv) school feeding (see below for more detail); and (v) building the capacities of national institutions to ensure timely and efficient response to food security challenges faced by the Government.
26. One of the most important WFP interventions is its food-for-education (FFE) programming, which is designed to support equitable access to education among the most vulnerable and food-insecure populations. The provision of hot meals and/or take-home rations for pupils helps to achieve universal primary education. As a result, school enrolment has increased, the drop-out rate has been reduced and improved nutrition and full stomachs help children to concentrate on their school work. The provision of take-home rations to girls encourages parents to enrol and keep their girls in school. As such, in support of the Government's "back-to-school" efforts and based on the comprehensive food security and nutrition survey, WFP is targeting food assistance to 600,000 students in 2,300 primary and community schools in highly food-insecure counties with low enrolment rates where the vast majority are IDPs.
27. As a result of the increasing focus on development activities and the perception that serious humanitarian needs have diminished, some donors have indicated that they are no longer prepared to support the school feeding programmes. As a consequence of this expected underfunding, in addition to a scaling down of other interventions, WFP will be forced to reduce the reach of its school feeding programme from 600,000 to 450,000 children. The team believes that this would be a serious setback to the recovery process, would discourage refugees from returning and/or staying in their areas of return and further erode the increases in school attendance and the Government's gains towards its education recovery priorities. Progress made in terms of girls' enrolment and attendance could also be compromised.



UNDP

28. The mission received an update on the various programmes being undertaken by UNDP under six programme pillars – (i) disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration; (ii) community-based recovery; (iii) governance; (iv) HIV/AIDS; (v) human rights and protection; and (vi) the environment, in support of the Government’s iPRS and other national development objectives. It was clear that UNDP had a strong presence and that it was one of the most visible United Nations agencies in the country. The UNDP was commended for its efforts in the field.
29. One of the visible successes of UNDP assistance to the Government of Liberia has been with respect to disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration. In partnership with UNFPA, UNICEF, UNMIL, WFP, WHO and NGOs, UNDP support has resulted in 103,000 ex-combatants being disarmed and 100,000 demobilized; 75,000 opportunities have been created with the subsequent provision of skills training to former combatants and other war-affected children as part of an attempt to generate much-needed employment, especially among young people. UNDP has also provided vital assistance through capacity-building support, especially in the areas of governance, rule of law and the civil service, all of which have been identified as priorities by the Government.
30. Despite these successes, UNDP continues to be constrained by challenges related to human and other capacities, data, resources and demand, given the scale of the reconstruction and development challenge. Liberia was a pilot country for the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) cluster system, and UNDP convened the early recovery cluster. Because of these challenges and the particular situation of Liberia as a post-conflict nation with limited government capacities to deliver services, UNDP often undertakes “gap-filling” activities to support programmes and projects in the field. This situation has aided and compounded the challenges of coordinating the United Nations system, with UNDP, by virtue of its strong presence, being the most capable of mobilizing resources and delivering assistance during the transitional phase. Many other United Nations agencies do not have the capacity to generate such resources in qualitative and quantitative terms.
31. While mindful of the important contribution of UNDP in Liberia, the mission was conscious of the need for greater attention to be given to ways in which UNDP can improve assistance for the Government in the development of more conflict-sensitive policies and programmes to ensure better access and equity for the Liberian people, given that these were contributing factors to the protracted civil war. The mission also learned of ongoing support being extended by the United Nations to build capacities at the county level through the county support teams (CSTs).
32. The issue of a “One United Nations” programme for Liberia was raised by UNDP in its discussions with the mission as a means of improving coordination and integrating the entire United Nations system in the country.
33. The mission saw evidence of excellent joint work by the United Nations agencies, demonstrating what can be achieved with strong leadership across the UNCT, but meetings with the country representatives of UNDP and other agencies revealed a need for better coordination among them. During the discussions, it was apparent that improved coherence could have been achieved in a number of cases through greater focus on comparative advantages.
34. The issue of funding featured prominently in discussions, with particular concern expressed over continued insufficient and fragmented donor funding. It is the view of the



mission that this has made it difficult for sustained and strategic interventions, in particular in remote parts of the country.

35. The mission was informed of the need for capacity-building at the country level in the Government, civil society and the private sector to enhance the prospects for sustained economic growth and development. As a result, there is an increased expectation and consequent demand on the United Nations system to support and provide capacity-building. UNDP needs to consider where it can show its comparative advantage, given the constraints on resources. The impending departure of many international NGOs and the eventual departure of UNMIL have raised serious concerns about the prospects for maintaining much of the existing support being extended at the local and national levels, in particular in the areas of health and education. The issue of capacity-building is linked to that of data collection and statistics and the implications for further policy formulation and planning.

UNFPA

36. Since 1979, UNFPA in Liberia has had the goal of improving the quality of life of women, men and children on the basis of a human rights-based approach and culturally sensitive programming. With a total of 24 staff members, including project staff, UNFPA has focused on its comparative advantages stemming from the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development: (i) reproductive health; (ii) population and development; and (iii) gender and advocacy. The depth and extent of the UNFPA engagement in Liberia was apparent in many of the encounters that the mission team had with officials and entities.
37. In the area of reproductive health, taking into account the unacceptably high rates of teenage pregnancy and maternal mortality in the country, UNFPA has been instrumental in providing logistical, technical and financial support for the Government and local NGOs with a view to improving the availability, access to and use of quality reproductive health services and of information focusing on emergency obstetric care, family planning and reproductive health commodity security. UNFPA has also enhanced reproductive health programme management in Liberia and built the capacities of health personnel in life-saving emergency obstetric care and providing them with drugs and equipment.
38. In addition to in-country capacity-building, notice was taken of the promotion of south-south cooperation with Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Examples included training programmes for doctors and paramedics in surgical fistula repair and emergency obstetric treatment and care, training for staff from the Institute of Statistics to carry out a population census and training for the gender-based violence secretariat that has been set up in the Ministry of Gender and Development.
39. UNFPA has also been instrumental in implementing the sub-regional Manu River Initiative aimed at stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), targeting IDPs, refugees, returnees and their host communities in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone. This exemplary sub-regional initiative could be replicated in other parts of Liberia to address cross-border issues related to HIV/AIDS and STIs.
40. It was also noted that reproductive health care commodities are widely spread in the counties although their availability would need to be improved and secured in the near future.



41. The population and development component was highlighted by the UNFPA contribution to addressing the lack of data through its technical and financial support for the 2006–2007 demographic and health survey, the results of which will be available this year. UNFPA also supported the development of a road map for the 2008 population and housing census and also supported the Ministry of Education in the integration of life skills and population life education into the school curriculum from the primary level.
42. On gender and advocacy, UNFPA led the IASC sub-cluster on gender-based violence and supported the Ministry of Gender and Development for the formulation, launch and implementation of the gender-based violence plan of action. The mission also acknowledged the support of UNFPA to NGOs in working to eliminate such violence.
43. The mission was impressed with the quality of the impact of the work of UNFPA and of its interaction with the other members of the UNCT and the integrated mission, especially given the constraints of its small staff and the multiple demands it faces. It was acknowledged that UNFPA-Liberia benefits from its strengths, identified as the ability to forge good working relations with the Government and local NGOs to promote national ownership and leadership, and its ability to deploy its regional advisers in the areas of reproductive health, population and development and gender when and as needed. However, the mission is of the view that the challenges facing Liberia require more support from UNFPA through reinforcing the staff and increasing funding for the country office to consolidate its positioning at the central and county levels.
44. The team witnessed the important contributions of United Nations volunteers (UNVs) to the work of UNFPA in Liberia.

IV. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

General

45. Country programmes such as those in Liberia, a country in transition from relief to development, need regular resources beyond the conventional allocations. Consideration should be given to revising the formula for calculating regular resources to take into account the transition factors so that higher ceilings can be allocated to respond to the additional resource needs of offices trying to provide strong support to Governments with weak capacities until the development process has been firmly established.
46. During the transition from relief to development, country programmes of cooperation are likely to resemble “double programmes” in which life-saving service-delivery continues through the Government and NGOs, decreases gradually while development programming begins and gradually increases and builds the capacity of the Government to take over its full responsibilities. Both elements are essential to ensure that no disruption of service provision occurs and that the progress made during the relief period is consolidated and sustained.
47. Similarly, donors should be made aware of the special circumstances found in situations such as that in Liberia and encouraged to address the programmatic gaps that exist as a result of the lack of funding envelopes for transitional and recovery programming. In post-conflict situations, budget support may help to empower public institutions to start taking control of basic social services and can facilitate capacity-building for these institutions.
48. Although the situation in Liberia is relatively stable, its transitional phase from relief to development and its unacceptably high debt burden have made it difficult to attract and



sustain financial and other support. Consequently, greater support will have to be extended by the United Nations system and by bilateral and multilateral donors to sustain these programmes. The issue of how to provide support from the relief to the development phases will remain a concern to the United Nations and to the international community with a view to achieving the flexibility to respond to the challenges. The mission believes that better coordination is needed in the mobilization of resources.

49. There is a significant role for the United Nations in the follow-up to the Liberia Partners' Forum, held in Washington DC in February 2007, particularly in the areas of capacity-building and data collection. Capacity-building has to be comprehensive and will take time. United Nations agencies should continue to be "trusted friends" during that period and accompany the Government throughout the process.
50. It was observed that the joint efforts of the UNCT members to work together, based upon General Assembly resolution 59/250 of 2 December 2004 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, could be more effective in terms of breaking down programmatic silos and encouraging coordination, collaboration and harmonization. However, as discussed with the UNCT, continued efforts should be made regarding working together at the country level. Examples that were discussed and that might be considered for further exploration include structural adjustments to staffing, usage of capital assets and the development of common programmatic methodologies, indicators, benchmarks and other areas that could lead to economies of scale, increased programmatic effectiveness and other efficiencies. Coordination needs to be guided by respect for the mandates of all the UNCT agencies, taking into account the importance of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits for the achievement of the MDGs.
51. Leadership and political will in and outside the United Nations can make a difference: the United Nations has demonstrated this through the effectiveness of the measles immunization campaign, which could not have happened without coordination and cooperation among the United Nations agencies. As a general observation, some coordination gaps were noted among the work of the UNCT and the programmatic activities of UNMIL; this is an area that could benefit from a discussion with the peace-building commission and the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).
52. Coordination among stakeholders is essential at all levels to ensure that the efforts made during the humanitarian phase are not lost before the development phase is reached and to increase the opportunities of resource mobilization
53. In January 2006, Liberia was designated as one of the pilot countries for the cluster approach for humanitarian coordination, bringing together United Nations agencies, NGOs, donors and the Government with leadership assigned to particular agencies in specific sectors. The idea is to have clear humanitarian priorities, action plans, strategies and benchmarks for Liberia and to improve accountability. This approach can also provide, through the joint assessment of needs by country support teams (CSTs), a way for the mandates of smaller agencies to be reflected even though they might not be present. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), which is a useful tool for determining joint programmes or collaborative actions, should take advantage of the joint assessment approach.
54. The CSTs constitute an innovative mechanism to strengthen the capacities of local administration and for the UNCT to coordinate the United Nations approach and to support the Government's decentralization efforts on the basis of the needs identified at the



community level. Such initiatives could prove useful for increasing the leading role of civil authority at the local level and coordinating with UNMIL and humanitarian agencies as they draw down their presence. There is still scope for further collaboration and coordination among the agencies and with the Government, in order to enhance the impact of the work of the United Nations system including the CSTs. The mandates of all agencies should be reflected in the work of the CSTs through the joint gap-analysis approach. National ownership and leadership should be built into the CST mechanism

55. The UNCT should continue to seek the engagement of civil society and the private sector and to pursue south-south cooperation with countries in the region, including regional and sub-regional groupings such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Manu River Union.

Specific

56. Given the scale and intensity of technical assistance required to support capacity development, UNICEF Liberia will need to maintain an optimal staff for the period that the “double programme” is needed.
57. Consideration must be given to an increased budget that will allow UNICEF to simultaneously provide service delivery and enhance the capacities of the Liberian people during the crucial transition phase from recovery to development. Additional funds may be sought through the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) and other mechanisms.
58. Given the Liberian experience, UNICEF may wish to consider focusing on adolescent development and protection in a post-conflict situation.
59. UNICEF may wish to consider taking the initiative in addressing the special needs of children in transition from refugee and IDP status to “regular/resident” status, in consultation with other concerned agencies and organizations.
60. UNICEF must continue its activities as part of the UNCT, while supporting the national ownership of those programmes by the people and Government of Liberia.
61. Country programmes that find themselves in transition from relief to development may need to make adjustments to the traditional definitions of WFP programmes to sustain programming for basic needs beyond the emergency relief phase.
62. A premature phase-out of food security programming such as school feeding would be a serious setback to the recovery process, discouraging refugees from returning and/or staying in their areas of return and further eroding the increases in school attendance and the Government’s gains towards its education recovery priorities.
63. The special circumstances of situations such as that in Liberia should be considered in terms of raising funds through the CAP. It should be recognized that the CAP is viewed by donors as a primary source of direction with regard to humanitarian needs. A given country’s inability to launch its own separate appeal as opposed to a regional appeal significantly reduces the degree to which it can attract funding.
64. Given the scale and intensity of the technical assistance required in Liberia and the comparative advantages of UNFPA, the professional staffing levels and funding for UNFPA would need to be increased significantly and used as seed funds to leverage resources to address, in partnership with other stakeholders, the unacceptably high rates of teenage pregnancy and maternal mortality and the very high incidence of obstetric fistula, and to continue to spearhead national efforts to fill 23 years of gaps through the conduct of



the much needed 2008 Population and Housing Census, while reinforcing its leadership role in combating gender-based violence.

65. UNFPA must continue to take advantages of its multi-sectoral teams of experts in the region to bring technical assistance to the Government, while pursuing national capacity-building through south-south cooperation.
66. UNFPA should take advantage of additional funds from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the CAP and other mechanisms to support reduction of maternal mortality and gender-based violence in Liberia.

ANNEX I

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE JOINT FIELD VISIT BY MEMBERS OF THE
EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF AND WFP TO LIBERIA
(25 FEBRUARY TO 5 MARCH 2007)**

Regional Group/Country	Name and title	Representing Executive Board
African States		
Benin	Ms A. Fernande Hounbedji, Second Counsellor, Permanent Mission	UNDP
Mali	Mr Issa Konfourou, Counsellor, Permanent Mission	UNICEF
Tanzania, United Republic of	H.E. Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa, Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to FAO/WFP and IFAD	WFP
Uganda	Mr Benedict L. Lukwiya, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission	UNFPA
Asian and Pacific States		
Bangladesh	Mr Mahmudul Karim, Minister, Permanent Mission	UNDP
Bhutan	Mr Sangye Rinchhen, Counsellor, Permanent Mission	UNFPA
Myanmar	Mr Aung Lynn, Counsellor, Permanent Mission	UNICEF
Pakistan	Mr Aamir Ashraf Khawaja, Counsellor	WFP
Eastern European States		
Croatia	Ms Jasminka Dinic, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission	UNICEF
Russian Federation	Mr Denis Piminov, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission	UNDP
Ukraine	Mr Ihor Ivanchenko, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	UNFPA
Latin American and Caribbean States		
Bahamas	H.E. Paulette A. Bethel, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York	UNICEF
Guatemala	Mr Jose Briz Gutierrez, Deputy Perm. Rep., Permanent Mission	UNFPA
Jamaica	Ms Diedre Mills, Counsellor, Permanent Mission	UNDP
Peru	Mr Roberto Seminario, Minister, Embassy of Peru to Italy and FAO/IFAD/WFP	WFP
Western European and other States		
Canada	Mr Nevin Orange, Programme Officer, CIDA	WFP
Japan	Mr Ken Ota, Officer, Global Issues Cooperation Division, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	UNFPA
Netherlands	Ms Loes van den Elzen, Policy Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	UNICEF
United Kingdom	Mr Dan Silvey, Senior Conflict Adviser Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs, DFID	UNDP



The mission was accompanied by:

- Mr Ado Vaher, Secretary a.i. of the UNICEF Executive Board
- Ms Rekha Thapa, Secretary of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board
- Mr Kwabena Osei-Danquah, Chief, Executive Board and External Relations Branch, UNFPA
- Ms Claudia von Roehl, Secretary of the WFP Executive Board
- Ms Kirsi Madi, Assistant Secretary of the UNICEF Executive Board
- Ms Françoise Coupet, Administrative Assistant, UNICEF Office of the Secretary of the Executive Board



ANNEX II**Summary of the Field Visit Programme****Monday 26 February**

Security briefing

Welcoming remarks by the Heads of Agencies

Meeting of the Executive Board members

Briefing by SRSG with UNCT and UNMIL staff

Lunch with agency representatives/senior staff/staff association representatives

Courtesy call to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Meeting with Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs on national priorities

Welcome reception with United Nations/Liberian senior officials/diplomatic community

Tuesday 27 February

Briefing for the Executive Board members by their respective agencies

Meeting with the President of the Republic of Liberia

Meeting with representatives of the private sector

Meeting with representatives of civil society

Cocktails with representatives of civil society/private sector

Wednesday 28 February**County Visits: Participants split into two groups****Team 1:**

Visit to Voinjama

County support team meeting with the superintendent and local administration

Visit to Tenebu Elementary School (UNDP/UNICEF/WFP)

Transit Centre

Briefing by the Pakistani Battalion of UNMIL and UNHCR

Visit to Foya Hospital (Foya Health Centre UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO)

Briefing on the measles campaign

Team 2:

Visit to Ganta

County Support Team meeting with the Superintendent

Presentation of children affected by the fighting factions (CAFF) project

Visit of two sites of CAFF project (masonry, carpentry, tailoring) (UNICEF)

Presentation and welcome by Bangladeshi Battalion of UNMIL Commander



Mano River Union HIV/AIDS project (UNFPA)

Rehabilitation Centre (FAO/UNICEF/WFP)

Visit to Ganta Hospital (UNDP/UNFPA/WFP)

Thursday 1 March

County Visits: Participants split into two groups

Team 1:

Visit to Star of the Sea Health Center (UNFPA/UNICEF/WFP)

Monrovia Vocational Training Center, Skills Training for Ex-Combatants (UNDP)

Meeting with Country Support Team (CST) members

Fistula Programme (UNFPA) National Drug Service annex and drug store (UNDP)

Police: Women and Children Protection Unit, meeting with the Inspector General (UNICEF)

Team 2:

Therapeutic Feeding Center (UNICEF/WFP)

Visit to Sass Town Clinic and Community Health Centre (UNICEF/UNFPA)

Visit to Tubmanburg

CST meeting with the Superintendent and local administration

Visit to Bomi Hospital including regional drugs depot (UNDP/UNFPA)

Visit to Gbah ALP/Community School (NRC/UNICEF/WFP)

Friday 2 March

Breakfast meeting with the Minister of Gender

Internal meeting of the Executive Boards

Press briefing

Internal meeting of the Executive Boards

Meeting with sector Ministers and Governance Reform Commission

Reception hosted by Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs

Saturday 3 March

Breakfast meeting with the Minister of Finance

Meeting with development partners: European Union, United States of America, Sweden, Germany, Economic Community of West African States, African Union, African Development Bank, China, World Bank and International Monetary Fund

Debriefing with the Regional Coordinator and Heads of Executive Committee agencies

Sunday 4 March

Drafting of the field visit report



ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

CAP	Consolidated Appeal Process
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CST	country support team
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FFE	food for education
HIV/AIDS	Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IDP	internally displaced person
iPRS	interim Poverty Reduction Strategy
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NGO	non-government organization
PMTCT	prevention of mother-to-child transmission
SRSG	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
STI	sexually transmitted infection
UNCT	United Nations country team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
UNV	United Nations volunteers
WHO	World Health Organization