

# XIV. APPENDICES

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## APPENDIX I

### SIERRA LEONE: GLOSSARY OF KEY PLAYERS AND OTHER BASICS

#### FIGHTING FORCES, THEIR LEADERS AND POLITICAL PARTIES

**All People's Congress (APC)**, a political party, governed Sierra Leone from 1977 as effectively a one-party regime. Its exclusionary politics prompted student protests for governmental reforms the beliefs and goals of which were ultimately co-opted and corrupted by the leaders of the Revolutionary United Front.

**Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC)** was formed by government soldiers who ousted newly elected President Kabbah in a May 1997 coup. It invited the RUF to join the government as the AFRC/RUF and continued systematic murder, torture, looting, rape and destruction of economic systems until its ousting in February 1998 by the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG).

**Civil Defense Forces (CDFs)**, community-based fighting forces comprised of tribes across Sierra Leone, were allied with the government forces against the rebel insurgents. They used children as part of their fighting forces, often engaging them in rituals to make them believe they were impervious to injury and forcing them to commit human rights abuses.

**Diamonds** — “Diamonds, bauxite, titanium,” young people begin to list as they explain the many ways in which warring parties fought for control of their country's natural resources. Perhaps more than any other factor, profits from the illegal sale of diamonds financed and thus sustained the brutal war and socio-economic destruction in Sierra Leone.

**Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG)**, first established in Sierra Leone in 1990, was the Economic Community of West African States' military contribution to fighting off the rebels in collaboration with the Republic

of Sierra Leone Military Forces (the SLA). The majority of the ECOMOG forces were supplied by Nigeria. It eventually took the CDFs under its umbrella.

**The Green Book**, a manifesto by Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, preached revolutionary Pan-Africanism and inspired student activists in Sierra Leone in the 1970s and early 1980s to counter the policies of the APC. The book claims that people have rights to accommodation, food and property and should not be allowed to accumulate wealth beyond individual needs. RUF founders adapted these calls into their revolutionary rhetoric.

**Alhiji Ahmed Tejan Kabbah** is the current president of Sierra Leone. First elected in February 1996, then overthrown in an AFRC coup in May 1997, he was reinstated with the help of ECOMOG in 1998 and re-elected in May 2002. He is the leader of the SLPP.

**Major Johnny Paul Koroma** is the former leader of the AFRC. He subsequently became the chairman for the Commission of the Consolidation of Peace (CCP) until the May 2002 presidential and parliamentary elections, when he became a member of parliament.

**Joseph Saidu Momoh** is the former army chief who succeeded Siaka Stevens as president of Sierra Leone and leader of the All People's Congress (APC), beginning in 1985. He and the APC were ousted by junior officers frustrated by lack of governmental support for their struggle against rebels in Sierra Leone's eastern forest region, who on March 23, 1991 had begun what would become nearly 10 years of insurgency.<sup>391</sup>

**National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL)**, a Liberian rebel group formed by former soldiers of then Liberian President Samuel Doe's army, served as current Liberian President Charles Taylor's vehicle to power. It set the tone for the Sierra Leone conflict, as former NPFL recruits and Liberian refugees infused the RUF rebel movement with their youth-centered terror tactics.

**Revolutionary United Front (RUF)**, a rebel group, also known as “the movement” of Sierra Leone,

launched a military campaign against the government of Sierra Leone beginning in 1991, as well as a campaign of terror against Sierra Leonean civilians for nearly a decade. The RUF killed, maimed, forcibly recruited and sexually abused and enslaved thousands of children and adolescents.

**Revolutionary United Front Party (RUF)**, evolved out of the RUF, which agreed to transform the group into a political party as part of the peace agreement. Members of the RUF were apportioned positions within the government of Sierra Leone.

**Foday Saybana Sankoh**, leader of the RUF, was given a status equivalent to that of a vice-president of Sierra Leone as a result of the Lomé Peace Agreement and is currently in jail in Sierra Leone on charges relating to a firebomb that took place outside his home in Freetown.

**Sierra Leone Army (SLA)** is the principal military force of the government of Sierra Leone (GOSL) that fought the RUF with support from ECOMOG, CDFs and other groups. Today's SLA includes retrained RUF fighters.

**Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP)**, a political party, was first banned under the APC and re-formed in 1991 following a referendum on multi-party democracy. It was and remains the leading political party within the government of Sierra Leone. Its supporters were principal targets of the RUF during the war. Government forces under its watch also recruited and used children in combat.

**Charles Taylor** is the current President of Liberia and leader of the NPFL. Taylor's push to overthrow Samuel Doe's government in Liberia fueled the war in neighboring Sierra Leone from its start. In the hopes of destabilizing Sierra Leone's support for international peacekeeping efforts in Liberia, he encouraged and supplied the RUF. Violent instability continues along the Sierra Leone-Liberia border today.

## ACTORS AND INITIATIVES IN RECOVERY FROM THE WAR

**Child Protection Network (CPN)** is a group of over 25 United Nations agencies, government ministries and international and local NGOs established in 1996. It is chaired by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA) and works to promote and secure the provision of protection and care to children affected by the war,

especially those in the fighting forces. It also promotes coordination among social welfare actors in Sierra Leone, encouraging standardized approaches. **Child Protection Agencies (CPAs)** represented in the CPN are principally responsible for delivering services to children and adolescents.

**Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)** program supports the disarmament, demobilization, care, protection and reintegration of children associated with the fighting forces as mandated especially by Articles 16 and 30 of the Lomé Peace Agreement. The reintegration component is supported and implemented by UNICEF in partnership with the NCDDR, MSWGCA and the CPN. The primary objective of the DDR program has been the consolidation of security and facilitation of the socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants into civil society. The disarmament and demobilization elements of this program ended formally in January 2002, when peace was officially declared. Only the reintegration component of the program continues.

**Lomé Peace Agreement** was signed in Lomé, Togo on July 7, 1999 by Republic of Sierra Leone President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone leader Foday Sankoh, marking a commitment to end more than eight years of hostilities. The Agreement lays out all of the provisions for peace, such as cessation of hostilities; governance; pardon and amnesty for combatants and collaborators; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration for former combatants, including children; and humanitarian assistance and human rights.

**Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA)** is a government ministry responsible for policy, coordination and monitoring of all child protection actors in Sierra Leone and chairs the CPN.

**National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA)** is a governmental agency that evolved from the National Commission for Reconstruction, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (NCRRR). The mandate of NaCSA remains the same as that of the former NCRRR, with the exception that NaCSA mainly focuses its activities in the northern and eastern provinces. NaCSA is responsible for the overall planning, programming, coordination, supervision and monitoring of all humanitarian, reintegration, resettlement and reconstruction work resulting from the civil war.

**National Commission for Disarmament,**

**Demobilization and Reintegration (NCDDR)** is a high-level policy body that was appointed, following democratic elections in Sierra Leone in 1998, to address DDR issues. Its original members were GOSL ministers and the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative, but eventually also included the RUF in its governance of the DDR program.

**Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)** was mandated by the Lomé Peace Agreement in Article XXXVI to help “address impunity, break the cycle of violence and provide a forum for both the victims and perpetrators of human rights violations in the conflict to tell their story, get a clear picture of the past in order to facilitate genuine healing and reconciliation.”

**United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL)**, the UN peacekeeping force in Sierra Leone, had its first incarnation when established by the UN Security Council in 1998 as the UN Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL) sending military and human rights observers to Sierra Leone. Following the Lomé Peace Agreement in 1999, the Security Council authorized a 6,000-member peacekeeping force — UNAMSIL — with authority to use “deadly force” if needed. It assists the GOSL in carrying out the provisions of the Lomé Peace Agreement, especially in providing security and implementing disarmament and demobilization. It now has 17,500 military personnel, including 260 military observers, in Sierra Leone.

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** is the United Nations organization principally responsible for the protection and care of refugees. In Sierra Leone, its primary mission is to facilitate and promote the voluntary return of Sierra Leonean refugees and internally displaced returnees, to monitor security and living conditions within Sierra Leone, to promote the enactment of national legislation and the adoption of administrative procedures for refugee issues, and to provide assistance to newly arriving Liberian refugees. No one organization has principal responsibility for internally displaced people in Sierra Leone.

**United Nations Children's Fund in Sierra Leone (UNICEF SL)** is the lead child protection agency in Sierra Leone and provides CPAs in Sierra Leone with technical assistance, logistical support, funds and training. In 1993, it initiated a Child Protection Program to address the needs of separated children and today works closely with UNAMSIL, MSWGCA and CPAs to implement the DDR.

**War Victims Fund** was called for in Article XXIX of the Lomé Peace Agreement and, with support from the international community, was meant to be established by the GOSL for programs for the rehabilitation of war victims. Young people who were not involved in the fighting forces are frustrated that this fund has not become operational, although it remains unclear how victims would be classified.

## BASIC FACTS ON SIERRA LEONE

### COLONIAL HISTORY

Sierra Leone was a British colony and won its independence on April 27, 1961.

### Population<sup>392</sup>

- Sierra Leone's population is estimated to be between 4.5 and 5.5 million, up from 4.1 million in 1990 (the wide discrepancy in estimates is due to the lack of a national census since 1985). A 1985 census showed the town of Makeni as having 12,000 people, and Freetown, the capital, as home to an estimated 550,000. A UN-sponsored census is scheduled for January 2003.
- Estimates of the population of adolescents and youth vary: Over 44 percent of the population of Sierra Leone is under the age of 14 according to the CIA; other estimates assert that youth, defined as those between the ages of 15 and 35 years old, make up 45 percent of the population, and that children, defined as those below 15 years, made up 44 percent of the population in 1995.
- According to the United Nations Youth 2000 Profile, the median age of the population of Sierra Leone is 17.9.

### LOWEST HUMAN DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS IN THE WORLD<sup>393</sup>

- Of 173 countries ranked, Sierra Leone placed last on the United Nations' Human Development Index.
- The estimated per capita income in Sierra Leone is US\$140 per year.
- Sierra Leone has the worst life expectancy rates (38 years on average), the lowest adult literacy rates and the highest percentage of total population living on less than US\$1 per day in the world.
- Natural resources include diamonds, titanium ore, bauxite, iron ore, gold and chromite.

### POPULATION MOVEMENTS<sup>394</sup>

#### *During the War*

- During the war, nearly half of the entire population of Sierra Leone was displaced internally or became refugees outside the country's borders.

#### *Today*

- 185,000 Sierra Leoneans were refugees and asylum seekers at the end of 2001.
- 40,000 Sierra Leonean refugees remain in camps in Guinea and over 30,000 remain in camps in Liberia.
- Sierra Leone currently hosts upwards of 15,000 Liberian refugees.
- 247,590 people remain registered as internally displaced in Sierra Leone.

### TRIBES AND LANGUAGES<sup>395</sup>

- There are 16 tribes in Sierra Leone, each with its own area of dominance, although all tribes can be found in each chiefdom, district or province.
- Official language: English, but it is limited to literate minority.
- Other languages: *Mende*, principal vernacular in the south; *Temne*, principal vernacular in the north; *Krio*, English-based Creole, spoken by the descendants of freed Jamaican slaves who were settled in the Freetown area, a *lingua franca* and a first language for 10 percent of the population but understood by 95 percent.

APPENDIX II

METHODOLOGICAL MATERIALS

**SURVEY of top adolescent concerns**

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex (circle): Male/ Female Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attending school? (circle): Yes/ No Currently displaced? Yes/No Formerly displaced? Yes/ No

Formerly a refugee? Yes/ No Formerly with fighting forces? Yes/ No Civil Defense Forces? Yes/ No

Please read the following list of issues carefully and rank your top ten concerns, beginning with number 10 as your biggest concern. If you are not an adolescent, please rank the top 10 concerns that you believe adolescents face in Sierra Leone.

*For example, if your biggest concern is adolescent crime and vandalism, mark a number 10 next to that category. If your second biggest concern is being a refugee and/or internally displaced, mark number 9 next to that category, and so on, using numbers 10 through 1.*

**Concerns:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Lack of health care
- \_\_\_\_\_ HIV/AIDS and STDs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Drug abuse and addiction
- \_\_\_\_\_ Being disabled (loss of sight, hearing, limbs, etc)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Early and/or forced marriage
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prostitution
- \_\_\_\_\_ Teen pregnancy (Makeni survey read Unwanted Pregnancy here)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rape (Makeni survey read Sexual Violence here)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lack of educational opportunities
- \_\_\_\_\_ Unemployment
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lack of shelter/food/water/clothing
- \_\_\_\_\_ Poverty
- \_\_\_\_\_ Being displaced
- \_\_\_\_\_ Being orphaned
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lack of parental/family/home care
- \_\_\_\_\_ Violence and insecurity
- \_\_\_\_\_ Adolescent crime, delinquency and vandalism
- \_\_\_\_\_ Reintegrating into society after war
- \_\_\_\_\_ Trauma and psychological problems because of the war
- \_\_\_\_\_ Neglect by elders and government / lack of participation in decision-making

# Themes and Questions Developed by Freetown Adolescent Research Team for Focus Groups

Remember: you are RESEARCHERS investigating youth problems and solutions, NOT giving your opinions on problems or solving the problems of the youth you talk to.

## General focus group timeline:

- 1 hour spent talking about adolescent/youth problems
- 1/2 hour (30 minutes) talking about solutions to problems and possibilities for peace
- 1/2 hour (30 minutes) for administering the SURVEY of top ten concerns

## **Focus Questions:**

- What are the biggest problems you and other young people face in Sierra Leone and what are some solutions to these problems?
- How does one become an adult in Sierra Leone? What is “adolescence” or “youth”? Describe it.

These are sample questions you developed in the training workshop. These are not the only questions you might want to ask. In all of the following categories, ask if there are differences in the experiences of boys and girls, and ask for solutions to all of these problems, including ones that adolescents can affect.

## **Education:**

- Do you go to school? If so, how often do you attend school? If you do not attend school, why not? Would you like to?
- Are there schools in your area? What is a/ your classroom like? Are there basic learning materials in your school? If not, what are you lacking?
- Is there anything you'd like to change about your curriculum? Are there any subjects you would like to know more about? Do you think your education will help you in the future?
- Do you have trained and qualified teachers in your school? If not, how could the teachers teach better? Are teachers paid on time?
- Do you have access to vocational training? If so, what kind? Is it useful? If not, what kind would you like?

## **Health:**

- When you are sick, what do you do? Have you ever been to a doctor? If so, why? Describe the most common health problems or diseases facing you and other adolescents.
- Are there health facilities/ hospitals in your area? How far is the nearest health center or hospital? Is the health center/hospital clean? Are there enough qualified doctors and nurses? Have they treated you properly? Is there enough medicine? Can you afford treatment and medicine?
- When you have a problem, what do you do? Do you have someone to talk to about your problems or stress? If so, who do you talk to? Can problems be solved through counseling? Is it necessary to get counseling for your problems? If so, do you have access to counseling or other support and does it help you? Is there anything bothering you? If so, what is it?
- What is the average age that adolescents have sex? Have you ever heard of HIV/AIDS or other STDs? Where did you get this information? Have you ever seen someone affected by HIV/AIDS? Do you believe in the existence of HIV/AIDS? If no, why not? How is this deadly virus passed on? How can you prevent it? Do you take care to prevent it?

- Do you know anyone who takes drugs? If so, what kind? Do you smoke? Drink? Do any other drugs? If so, where do you get these items? Why do you/ other adolescents take these drugs? What are the effects of drug abuse and addiction on adolescents?

#### **Gender Issues:**

- Are you married? If so, did you get to choose your partner? How old were you when you got married? If you didn't have a choice, why not? How do you feel about this marriage? What future plans do you have for your marriage?
- If you are not married, would you like to get married? What is the best age for marriage? How do you feel about mixed marriages between different tribes?
- Do you know anyone who has been raped? If you do know of a rape, how did it happen and what were the consequences for the victim and the rapist? What is the difference between rape and sex by choice? Do you know anyone who has raped someone? If so, what happened? Were they aware of what they were doing? Were they punished? What do girls or boys who were raped need to recover?
- What leads adolescents into prostitution? What are the effects of prostitution? Are only girls prostitutes? If not, who else is? Who uses the services of prostitutes? Do any adolescents involved in prostitution have the consent of their parents?
- Do you know of any adolescent mothers? If so, did they get pregnant by choice? Do boys/men take responsibility for the baby? What are the problems of adolescent mothers? Can they go to school? Access health care?

#### **Socio-Cultural Factors:**

- Who takes care of you at home? What type of home/family background do you have? Do you get love from your parents or caregivers? Are you encouraged at home? Is home care adequate? How could it be better? Is there anyone to teach you good manners and courtesy to others? Can you rely on brothers and sisters at home? Do you take care of others?
- Are you an orphan? If so, how did you become an orphan and what are your problems? Who takes care of you? How old were you when you became an orphan? How do you feel?

#### **Socio-economic Factors:**

- How many meals do you eat a day? Do you get a balanced diet? Is water available in your area? Where/ how do you manage to get water? What is the quality of the water?
- How do you get money? Are you able to work/ have a job? What is your or your family's income versus your monthly costs?
- What kind of house do you live in? Please describe it. Do you have what you need? If not, what else do you need?
- What are the causes of poverty? How does poverty affect adolescents in Sierra Leone? How can you/ other adolescents help to decrease poverty?
- Why are some young people begging on the street? How does it affect their lives?

#### **Violence, Crime and Related Human Rights Violations:**

- Do you feel safe? Where do you feel most safe? Is there anywhere you would be afraid to go to? How is security in your community? When and why does violence occur in your community?
- What types of violence have you been exposed to? Do you know what rights you have? Have your rights been abused? If so, how and by whom? What can you do about these violations?
- Who causes the violence/crime in your community? Are adolescents involved in that? If so, how? Do young

people carry weapons? If so, what kind, where and why? Are adolescents victims of violence/crime in your community? Have you or do you know others who have been arrested for no reason? How can this violence be stopped?

#### **Violations of Rights During the War, Effects of the War and Prospects for Peace:**

- How has the war affected you and other adolescents? Were your rights violated during the war? Do you feel like a victim or a perpetrator (or both), and why? Have you forgiven a perpetrator? What do you need in order to forgive? Do you want revenge or need compensation for crimes committed against you? What does justice mean to you? Have you heard of the Lomé Peace Accord or the provision for war victims in the accord?
- Were you a combatant in the conflict? Were you abducted? If so, what was your experience? Do you think it is OK to be forced to fight in an armed conflict? Do you have problems now because of those experiences? Have the reintegration efforts (for ex-combatants) been successful? Have you been provided a job? Education? Are you engaged in something? Do you have any problems interacting with members of your community?
- Do you have any problems you can't solve? Have you lost anyone? What happened? Were they important to you? How do you feel? Do you have mental problems from the war?
- What do you think caused the war? Do you think these problems have been corrected? Has the war really ended? What will it take to keep peace?

#### **Concept of Adolescence, Young People's Role in Society and Generation Gap:**

- What does "adolescence" and "youth" mean in Sierra Leone? How do you become an adult? What is the role of adolescents and youth in society?
- Do you think the youth are important to the future of your community/society? Why or why not? Are you considered important in your community and/or society by adults and elders? Why or why not? Are you able to express your views and share problems with adults and elders? If so, what are their responses? Do you feel adolescents and elders communicate well? Please explain. Do you have respect for elders? Do you get advice from elders and do you wish you had more? Are adolescents being neglected? If yes, why do you think so? What do you suggest to solve this problem?
- Do you think young people can affect policies? If yes, give reasons. If no, give reasons. Have you ever put across your problems to a policy body? If yes, what was the outcome? Have you taken part in any decision-making process? Were your views accepted? Have you ever been asked to contribute to the solutions of adolescents' problems? What kinds of communication systems do you have in your area? Are you able to use them?
- Do you feel you have any positive role models in your community? Is there anyone you especially admire, and why? What gives you hope, and why? Name the qualities that make a positive role model.
- Are you interacting with other youth or different groups? If yes, how are you interacting with them? If no, why not?



# RESEARCH TEAM PARTICIPANT QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

1) How did you find out about the research study?

2) Have you ever conducted research before? If so, when, what kind of research and with whom?

3) Do you feel the views of young people in Sierra Leone are taken seriously by adults, including politicians?  
(check one)

\_\_\_\_\_ yes      \_\_\_\_\_ no

If yes, who takes them seriously and why?

If no, why not, and who would you most like to pay attention to young people's concerns?

4) Have you ever voiced your opinions about problems young people face? If so, to whom? Check all that apply below:

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I normally do not express the concerns of young people to anyone in particular.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, to:

If yes, how do you do this? Through:

\_\_\_\_\_ my parents

\_\_\_\_\_ conversation

\_\_\_\_\_ my teachers

\_\_\_\_\_ creatively, through art or

\_\_\_\_\_ my friends

drama presentations

\_\_\_\_\_ NGO workers

\_\_\_\_\_ media work

\_\_\_\_\_ Elders

\_\_\_\_\_ organized groups (youth,

\_\_\_\_\_ Religious leaders

religious, school, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Government officials

\_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Others: (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

5) Do you have any fears about undertaking the study? If so, what are they?

6) What do you most hope to accomplish by being involved in this research study?

## APPENDIX III

# TASK FORCE ON PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES

## CORE PRINCIPLES OF A CODE OF CONDUCT

Humanitarian agencies have a duty of care to beneficiaries and a responsibility to ensure that beneficiaries are treated with dignity and respect and that certain minimum standards of behavior are observed. In order to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, the following core principles must be incorporated into agency codes of conduct:\*

- Sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers constitute acts of gross misconduct and are therefore grounds for termination of employment.
- Sexual activity with children (persons under the age of 18) is prohibited regardless of the age of majority or age of consent locally. Mistaken belief in the age of a child is not a defense.
- Exchange of money, employment, goods or services for sex, including sexual favors or other forms of humiliating, degrading or exploitative behavior is prohibited. This includes exchange of assistance that is due to beneficiaries.
- Sexual relationships between humanitarian workers and beneficiaries are strongly discouraged since they are based on inherently unequal power dynamics. Such relationships undermine the credibility and integrity of humanitarian aid work.
- Where a humanitarian worker develops concerns or suspicions regarding sexual abuse or exploitation by a fellow worker, whether in the same agency or not, s/he must report such concerns via established agency reporting mechanisms.
- Humanitarian workers are obliged to create and maintain an environment which prevents sexual exploitation and abuse and promotes the implementation of their code of conduct. Managers at all levels have particular responsibilities to support and develop systems which maintain this environment.

\* Different considerations will arise regarding the enforcement of some of these principles for humanitarian workers hired from the beneficiary community. While sexual exploitation and abuse and the misuse of humanitarian assistance will always be prohibited, discretion may be used in the application of the principles regarding sexual relationships for this category of humanitarian worker.

APPENDIX IV

**SAMPLE OF YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS IN FREETOWN,  
SIERRA LEONE\***

Name of the Organization	Contact address and phone number	Membership / Contact Person	Year of establishment and registration	Activities
1. Peace Links	14 Williams St. Freetown	50 members, 10 to 25 years old. John Condor Allio, Director mob: 030 208 259 tel: 222 552	1990	Art Beat Center, Training for ex-combatants (drama, art, music, dancing).
2. Youth as Peacebuilders	FAWE offices, Freetown	25 members (13 boys and 12 girls), 18 to 30 years old. Jofwi Vambo, VP	2000 Registered with Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS)	Awareness programs for peace and tolerance through workshops, Drama and other performances; Counseling for adolescents.
3. Peace Pals Education Network	30 Pake St. Brookfield, Freetown	600 (boys and girls) from regions Bo, Moyamba, Pujahun, 7 to 18 years old. Desmond Tulay	2000 Registered with Ministry of Social Welfare, Children and Gender Affairs	Peace awareness trainings; Advocating for scholarships for poor children; Reporting orphan cases to other NGOs and GOSL
4. Sickcell Victims Association	CCYA office 55 Campbell St.	55 members (35 girls and 20 boys), 2 to 27 years old. Sullay A. Kamala Coordinator/President	2001 Registered with MSWCGA	Searching for scholarship for their members; Skills training.
5. Youth Organization for Peace and Development (YOFPAD)	2 Freetown Rd. York (Rural District)	60 members (boys and girls), including 20 ex-combatants, 15 to 30 years old. Hassan Kargbo, Pres.	2000 Registered with MEYS	Cleaning (fundraising); Started a pre-school program in York; Training in brick making.
6. Bone Suffer Organization		102 members (70 boys, 32 girls), 5 to 35 years old.	2000	Agriculture (growing pigs as a fundraising); Cleaning (fundraising); Environmental activities.
7. Explicit Organization	48 Mac Donald Street, Freetown	40 members (25 boys and 15 girls), 15 to 20 years old Reginald Decter, Pres.	2001 Registered with MEYS	Sports activities
8. Sandos Generation	2 Alfred Street Freetown	15 members (boys only), 12 to 18 years old. Ibrahim Alusine Bangura, President	1997	Sports activities

Name of the Organization	Contact address and phone number	Membership / Contact Person	Year of establishment and registration	Activities
9. Teenatex Cultural Theatre	18 O' Neal Street Freetown 222 394	35 members (15 boys and 20 girls), 18-27 years old. Christina Williams, mbr.	1999	Cultural and artistic events.
10. ASPA Cultural Group	Waterloo Displaced Camp	50 members (25 boys and 25 girls), 8 to 20 years old. Sahr J. Komba, member	2001	Cultural activities; Sports activities; Preservation of the traditional culture

### **SAMPLE OF YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS IN MAKENI, SIERRA LEONE\***

Name of the Organization	Contact address and phone number	Membership / Contact Person	Year of establishment and registration	Activities
1. Friends of the Earth	Makeni Town Hall	25 members 17 boys and 8 girls Samuel Augustin Turay President	1998 Registered with MUYOG	Social Activities; Agricultural activities (fundraising).
2. Rescue Line	3 Mabenta Rd. Makeni	100 boys and 12 girls. Sheik Tejan Sie, vice-president	2000 Registered with Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	To promote Islam among youth and organize Islamic-oriented activities; Organize sport activities.
3. Friends of Creation	Makeni Town Hall, Conference Room	25 registered members (they pay membership) Samuel Turay Junior, President	1999 Registered with Makeni Union of Youth Groups (MUYOG)	Promote social activities, performance, shows; Agricultural activities, rice farm.
4. Central Bicycles and Hondas	PZ Independent Square	86 members (2 girls and 84 boys) Osman Jalloh Coordinator/President	2001 Registered with MUYOG	Renting bicycles and motor bikes (They own 28 motorbikes and 16 bicycles)
5. Young Generation	Vocational training center 14 Sylvanus St. Makeni	20 members, 15 boys and 5 girls (all ex-combatants)	2002 Members of MUYOG	The only youth group formed by ex-combatants which is in support of SLPP

\* The organizations listed here are by no means the only adolescent and youth organizations in Freetown or Makeni. Instead, they are those with which the Women's Commission had an opportunity to meet.

## ACRONYMS

<b>AFRC</b>	Armed Forces Revolutionary Council	<b>DFID</b>	The British Department for International Development
<b>APC</b>	All People's Congress	<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>ARC</b>	American Refugee Committee	<b>ECHO</b>	European Community Humanitarian Office
<b>BPRM</b>	Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (U.S. State Department)	<b>ECOMOG</b>	Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group
<b>CAADA</b>	Community Action Against Drug Abuse	<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>CC</b>	Cause Canada	<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
<b>CCF</b>	Christian Children's Fund	<b>FAWE</b>	Forum for African Women Educationalists
<b>CCP</b>	Commission of the Consolidation of Peace	<b>FGM</b>	Female Genital Mutilation
<b>CCPC</b>	Community Child Protection Committees	<b>GOSL</b>	Government of Sierra Leone
<b>CCYA</b>	Center for the Coordination of Youth Activities	<b>GTZ</b>	Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
<b>CDC</b>	U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
<b>CDF</b>	Civil Defense Force	<b>IASC</b>	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
<b>CDHR</b>	Center for Democracy and Human Rights	<b>ICC</b>	Interim Care Center
<b>CEIP</b>	Community Investment Education Program	<b>ICRC</b>	International Committee of the Red Cross
<b>CIDA</b>	Canadian International Development Agency	<b>ICVA</b>	International Council of Voluntary Agencies
<b>CPA</b>	Child Protection Agency	<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Person
<b>CPN</b>	Child Protection Network	<b>IFRC</b>	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
<b>CR</b>	Conciliation Resources	<b>INGO</b>	International Nongovernmental Organization
<b>CRC</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child	<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>CREPS</b>	Complementary Rapid Education for Primary Schools Program	<b>IRC</b>	International Rescue Committee
<b>CSM-SL</b>	Civil Society Movement Sierra Leone	<b>IYF</b>	Independent Youth Forum
<b>CSW</b>	Commercial Sex Worker	<b>KAP</b>	Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Survey
<b>CYP</b>	Commonwealth Youth Program	<b>MEST</b>	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
<b>DCOF</b>	Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (USAID)	<b>MEYS</b>	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
<b>DDR</b>	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration		

<b>MSF</b>	Médecins Sans Frontières	<b>STC</b>	Save the Children
<b>MSI</b>	Marie Stopes International	<b>STC-UK</b>	Save the Children United Kingdom
<b>MSWGCA</b>	Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs	<b>STEG</b>	Skills Training and Employment Generation
<b>MUYOG</b>	Makeni Union of Youth Groups	<b>STEP</b>	Skills Training and Employment Promotion
<b>MYS</b>	Ministry of Youth and Sports	<b>STI</b>	Sexually Transmitted Infection
<b>NaCSA</b>	National Commission for Social Action	<b>TEP</b>	Training and Employment Program
<b>NACP</b>	National AIDS Control Program	<b>TOR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>NCDDR</b>	National Commission for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration	<b>TRC</b>	Truth and Reconciliation Commission
<b>NCRRR</b>	National Commission for Reconstruction, Resettlement and Rehabilitation	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Program
<b>NFTRN</b>	National Family Tracing and Reunification Network	<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>NGO</b>	Nongovernmental Organization	<b>UNHCHR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>NPFL</b>	National Patriotic Front of Liberia	<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>NRC</b>	Norwegian Refugee Council	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>OCHA</b>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	<b>VVF</b>	Vesicovaginal Fistula
<b>OSIWA</b>	Open Society Initiative for West Africa	<b>WAEC</b>	West African Examination Council
<b>OTI</b>	Office of Transition Initiatives	<b>WFP</b>	World Food Program
<b>PPASL</b>	Planned Parenthood Association of Sierra Leone	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>PTSD</b>	Post-traumatic Stress Disorder	<b>WVSL</b>	World Vision Sierra Leone
<b>RREP</b>	Rapid Response Education Program	<b>YCG</b>	Youth Coordination Group
<b>RSG/IDPs</b>	Representative to the Secretary General on IDPs	<b>YIC</b>	Youth in Crisis
<b>RUF</b>	Revolutionary United Front	<b>YRTEP</b>	Youth Reintegration Training and Education for Peace Program
<b>RUFP</b>	Revolutionary United Front Party		
<b>SC</b>	Security Council		
<b>SCHR</b>	Steering Committee on Human Response		
<b>SHARP</b>	Sierra Leone HIV/AIDS Response Project		
<b>SLA</b>	Sierra Leone Army		
<b>SLPP</b>	Sierra Leone People's Party		
<b>SLYEO</b>	Sierra Leone Youth Empowerment Organization		

# XV • ENDNOTES

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- 1 Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) considers children to be “every human being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.” International organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) categorize adolescents chronologically as stipulated. The Women’s Commission report *Untapped Potential, Adolescents Affected by Armed Conflict*, 2000, p. 10, states that adolescence overall is defined chronologically, as pertaining to certain ages; functionally, as a process during which individuals make a critical transition from childhood to adulthood; and ultimately by its cultural and societal context, which vary widely.
- 2 Districts include: Northern Province: Kambia District, Koinadugu District, Bombali District, Port Loko District, Tonkolili District; Southern Province: Bo District, Pujehun District, Moyamba District, Bonthe District; Eastern Province: Kono District, Kailahun District, Kenema District; Western Area.
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  - 169 *Preliminary Report on HIV/AIDS in Sierra Leone*. The report recognizes that these statistics have limitations, including incompleteness; nonetheless, they show that HIV/AIDS is increasing at an alarming rate. The commercial sex worker rates are from military and police records.
  - 170 *Ibid*. Source: UNICEF/Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), Measure DHS, 1999- 2001, pp. 14-15. The three main ways are Abstinence, Be faithful and Consistent condom use.
  - 171 ARC, *ARC Strengthening AIDS Prevention in Port Loko*.
  - 172 Women's Commission interview, UNICEF, Freetown, April 16, 2002.
  - 173 *Young People and HIV/AIDS: Opportunity in Crisis*, UNICEF, UNAIDS, WHO, p. 47.
  - 174 Women's Commission interview, ARC, Freetown, April 18, 2002.
  - 175 Makeni research team report, 2002.
  - 176 ARC, *ARC Strengthening AIDS Prevention in Port Loko*.
  - 177 *Ibid*.
  - 178 Women's Commission interview with Freetown YCG's, Freetown, April 15, 2002. Makeni team report.
  - 179 All quotes from Women's Commission, Freetown research team and Makeni research team interviews, April - May 2002.
  - 180 Women's Commission interview, UNICEF, Freetown, April 16, 2002.
  - 181 Source: Pan African News Agency, Freetown, August 8, 2002.
  - 182 James Astill, "War injects AIDS into Sierra Leone: Two out of three soldiers could be infected with the virus, according to a United Nations report," *Mail & Guardian*, May 21, 2001. Until the policy was put in place, only a single National AIDS Coordinating Committee existed. With support from the World Health Organization and other UN agencies and organizations, the Ministry of Health established a National AIDS Control Program Secretariat in 1986.
  - 183 H.E. Mr. Allied Ibrahim Kanu, Ambassador, Statement at the Twenty-sixth Special Session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS.
  - 184 Government of Sierra Leone, *National HIV/AIDS Policy*, December 2001.
  - 185 Kent Page, *Flesh to Flesh — Dust to Dust: HIV/AIDS in Sierra Leone*.
  - 186 Women's Commission interview, UNICEF, Freetown, April 16, 2002. Also: Women's Commission interview, American Refugee Committee, Freetown, April 18, 2002.
  - 187 Saidu Kamara, "Journalists Schooled On HIV/AIDS," *Standard Times*, Freetown, April 2, 2002. The workshop was organized by the National AIDS Control Program.
  - 188 Women's Commission interview, UNICEF, Freetown, April 16, 2002. According to UNICEF, this campaign will be undertaken by UNICEF and the Ministries of Youth and Health.
  - 189 Women's Commission interviews, UNICEF and UNFPA, Freetown, April 16, 2002. While it has not yet been piloted and UNICEF has stopped supporting the project, UNFPA and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports are still collaborating on a curriculum that introduces sexual reproductive health information into the upper primary and lower secondary school.
  - 190 International protection involves efforts to ensure the range of human and humanitarian rights of individuals and communities as established under international law and reflected in national law and regional agreements. Among others, these include the right of children and adolescents to be safeguarded from armed conflict and of refugees not to be forcibly returned to the country from which they have fled persecution. Governments have the primary responsibility for ensuring the protection of their citizens, refugees and others within their borders, and nongovernmental and intergovernmental organizations, communities and individuals, including young people, all have important roles to play. For more information on the protection of refugees, refer to *Protecting Refugees, A Field Guide for NGOs*, produced jointly by UNHCR and its NGO partners. See also *Guidelines for the Protection and Care of Refugee Children* from UNHCR, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the *Summary of International Treaties Pertaining to Children Affected by Armed Conflict*, UNICEF NGO Sub-Working Group on Children in Armed Conflict.
  - 191 Child protection mechanisms in Sierra Leone, led largely by UNICEF in collaboration with a Child Protection Network, have focused especially on the issues of separated children — unaccompanied minors, orphans, former combatants and others.
  - 192 As reported by UNICEF, the MSWGCA chairs the CPN, which was established in 1996 and is made up of more than 25 UN agencies, government ministries and local and international NGOs. Members of the CPN include Family Homes Movement, COOPI, Caritas-Makeni, Caritas-Kenema, Christian Brothers, International Rescue Committee, Save the Children (UK), GOAL, Don Bosco, World Vision International, Catholic Relief Services, the Catholic Mission, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Christian Children's Fund, Leonet, Youth for Christ and

- Freetown City Council. Caritas-Makeni was the CPA responsible for DDR work in the northern region of Sierra Leone, and COOPI took responsibility for the western region.
- 193 *Report of The Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises*, Inter-Agency Standing Committee, June 13, 2002, p. 1.
- 194 Save the Children UK (STC-UK) and UNHCR, *Sexual Violence and Exploitation: The Experience of Refugee Children in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, Report of Assessment Mission Carried Out from October 22 to November 30, 2001*, January 2002.
- 195 The environment for such discussions was highly sensitive given the international scandal, and researchers were careful not to place young people providing testimony at any additional risk. Prior to undertaking their interviews, adolescent researchers and their adult advisers discussed carefully why they felt these issues were important to investigate and what they felt the most appropriate ways to raise the topics would be. Among other things, they never showed up in a community unannounced to conduct interviews, nor did they pressure respondents to discuss topics they were resistant to. The topics were raised as just some of many discussed. They conducted mostly same-sex interviews, and did not pose questions to focus groups that elicited direct testimony of personal experiences in front of their peers. They committed themselves to confidentiality and were prepared to make referrals to young people for additional support following interviews if necessary. They focused on solutions, not just problems, and more.
- 196 It is important to note that “prostitution” is the term used by adolescents themselves and is therefore used in this report, despite its growing unpopularity and replacement among advocacy groups with terms as “sexually exploited” or “prostituted” youth.
- 197 Women’s Commission and Makeni research team interview, Makeni, April 17, 2002.
- 198 Makeni research team interview, Makeni, April 23, 2002.
- 199 Women’s Commission and Makeni research team interview with adolescent former combatant girl, Makeni, April 18, 2002.
- 200 All citations in this paragraph: Women’s Commission and Makeni research team interview, Makeni, April 17, 2002.
- 201 Freetown research team interview, Freetown, April 2002.
- 202 Freetown research team interviews, Freetown, April 22 and 29, 2002.
- 203 Adolescent research team interview, Sierra Leone, April 2002.
- 204 *Ibid.*
- 205 Women’s Commission and Makeni research team interview, Makeni, April 17, 2002.
- 206 *Ibid.*
- 207 Women’s Commission interview, Freetown, April 19, 2002.
- 208 Women’s Commission and Makeni research team interview, Makeni, April 17, 2002.
- 209 *Ibid.*
- 210 Women’s Commission interview, UNAMSIL, Makeni, April 15, 2002.
- 211 Women’s Commission interview, Makeni, April 2002.
- 212 The IASC is comprised of both members (FAO, OCHA, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, WHO) and standing invitees (ICRC, ICVA, IFRC, InterAction, IOM, SCHR, RSG/IDPs, UNHCHR and the World Bank).
- 213 *Report of The Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation*, Inter-Agency Standing Committee, June 13, 2002, p. 1.
- 214 Women’s Commission interview, UNAMSIL, Makeni, April 15, 2002.
- 215 The Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 and the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions prohibit rape in both international and internal conflicts. The Convention on the Rights of the Child further protects children and adolescents from “all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse” in Article 34.
- 216 *Prevalence of War-Related Sexual Violence and Other Human Rights Abuses Among Internally Displaced Persons in Sierra Leone*, reprinted JAMA, January 23/30, 2002, Vol. 287, No. 4, p. 520.
- 217 Women’s Commission interview, Makeni, April 2002.
- 218 STC-UK and UNHCR, *Sexual Violence and Exploitation: The Experience of Refugee Children in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone*, p. 31.
- 219 Freetown research team interview, Freetown, April 16, 2002.
- 220 Makeni research team interview, Makeni, Sierra Leone, April 17, 2002.
- 221 Women’s Commission and Makeni research team interview, Makeni, April 19, 2002.
- 222 Freetown research team interviews, Freetown, April 12-13, 2002.
- 223 Freetown research team interviews, Freetown, April 12-13, 2002.
- 224 *Ibid.*
- 225 Freetown research team interview, Freetown, April 16, 2002.
- 226 STC-UK and UNHCR, *Sexual Violence and Exploitation: The Experience of Refugee Children in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone*, p. 38.
- 227 *Report of the Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation*, Inter-Agency Standing Committee, Plan of Action, June 13, 2002.
- 228 “Female Genital Mutilation Election Issue in Sierra Leone,” Afrol.com News, Misanet.com.
- 229 U.S. Department of State, *1998 Human Rights Report: Sierra Leone*.
- 230 Women’s Commission interview, Makeni, April 25, 2002.
- 231 Women’s Commission interview, Makeni, April 18, 2002.
- 232 Freetown research team interview, Freetown, April 23, 2002.
- 233 *Female Genital Mutilation: A Human Rights Information Pack*, Amnesty International.
- 234 U.S. Department of State, Office of the Senior Coordinator for International Women’s Issues, *Sierra Leone: Report on Female Genital Mutilation*, on June 1, 2001.
- 235 Makeni research team interview, Makeni, April 17, 2002.
- 236 The section on DDR is based on research conducted by the Women’s Commission Children and Adolescents Project team working with the two adolescent research teams in Freetown and Makeni, as well as that conducted by Binta Mansaray, Women’s Commission Protection Partner in Sierra Leone. The adolescent research teams worked mainly in April 2002 and included interviews with 48 former child soldiers in designated “ex-combatant” focus groups — 42 in Makeni, including 31 males and 11 females; 6 in Freetown, including 4 males and 2 females. Approximately 108 (47 females and 61 males) additional young people formerly associated with fighting forces were also interviewed, as were 53 (14 females and 39 males) formerly associated with Civil Defense Forces. Ms. Mansaray’s research was conducted in October 2001 in Freetown. The interviews involved at least 41 females and 14 males.
- 237 UNICEF, *Programme for Demobilisation and Reintegration of Child Combatants in Sierra Leone, January - December 2001*. This high-level policy body was first appointed by the government of Sierra Leone following democratic elections in 1998 and was originally made up of key ministers and the office of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Representative.
- 238 *Ibid.*, direct citation p. 2; other information pp. 2-4.
- 239 During the interim care phase, a premium was placed on swift reunification or placement in alternative care, ideally in less than six weeks. It is important to note that while ICCs mainly served formally demobilized children and adolescents, UNICEF and the CPAs also used them to support other “separated children,” including those abducted by armed forces, or “camp followers,” who were not formally recognized as combatants.
- 240 Women’s Commission interview, St. Edward’s Secondary School, Murray Town, October 2001.

- 241 Women's Commission interview with a spontaneously demobilized and reintegrated adolescent girl formerly with the RUF, Peacock Farm, Freetown, October 2001.
- 242 Women's Commission interview, UNICEF, Freetown, April 23, 2002.
- 243 Women's Commission interview, Caritas-Makeni, Makeni, April 25, 2002.
- 244 Article 39 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child provides that "States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of a child victim of: any form of neglect, exploitation, or abuse; torture or any other form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; or armed conflicts. Such recovery and reintegration shall take place in an environment which fosters the health, self-respect and dignity of the child."
- 245 Uniquely, UNAMSIL and the government of Sierra Leone use the term "combatants" to describe the parties to the conflict in Sierra Leone — an internal armed conflict. See: United Nations, *Thirteenth Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, S/2002/267*, March 14, 2002. This definition creates a gray area in the treatment of those recruited to serve fighting forces but not necessarily to take direct part in hostilities. International humanitarian law has traditionally distinguished between combatants in international armed conflict and those who take a direct part in hostilities in internal, "non-international," armed conflict. Normally, actors in a civil war are referred to as "parties," "members of government forces," "insurgent force members," etc. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (ratified by Sierra Leone on May 16, 2002) does not use the term "combatant," and instead uses "members of armed forces," thereby recognizing various forms of responsibilities therein. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (not yet ratified by Sierra Leone) does not use it either, instead referring to "recruiting" and "tak[ing] direct part in hostilities." Definitions drafted for use by the International Criminal Court (ICC) include "persons in service to combatants (military or armed groups or elements): persons who - voluntarily or involuntarily — provide food, shelter or sex, or medical, religious or other, similar goods or services, to military or armed groups or elements (combatants)." See: Footnote 42 of "Finalized draft text of the Elements of Crimes," and accompanying text, *Report of The Preparatory Commission for the International Criminal Court, PCNICC/2000/1/Add.2*, March 13-31, 2000, June 12-30, 2000. The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, uses the term "child soldiers" to include all children seeking protection under the Optional Protocol, which goes beyond those who take direct part in hostilities to include others recruited to serve these forces, for example, as porters, cooks, housekeepers, sex slaves, etc. See: Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, *Child Soldiers*, [www.un.org/special-rep/children-armed-conflict/fsoldiers.htm](http://www.un.org/special-rep/children-armed-conflict/fsoldiers.htm). According to *The Civilian Character of Asylum: Separating Armed Elements from Refugees* (UNHCR, Global Consultations on International Protection, EC/GC/01/5 February 13, 2001, paras. 9-10), "International law does not define fighters in an internal armed conflict because of the reluctance of States to confer a formal 'combatant' status upon those whom they consider as rebels and insurgents." UNHCR, however, defines and applies the term "armed element" for purposes of separating military elements from civilian populations.
- 246 The Women's Commission, while not ignoring the very specific nature of the justice and rehabilitation requirements of such victimization, nonetheless includes this category of children, adolescents and women affected by armed conflict under the "others recruited to serve these forces" rubric of "child soldiers." (See Endnote 224.) As such, they should be fully accounted for in demobilization and reintegration programs.
- 247 Girls and women forced to be "wives" of armed elements in Sierra Leone and elsewhere in the world often perform both combatant and other services, including as the cook, housekeeper and sex slave. Those performing the last three roles are referred to as "wives" and the owner-slave relationship into which they are sold, bartered or otherwise transferred as "marriage."
- 248 NCDDR, "Status of Reintegration Activities for Discharged Ex-combatants," February 18, 2002. Cited in unpublished research by the Women's Commission, 2002.
- 249 UNICEF, *Programme for Demobilisation and Reintegration of Child Combatants in Sierra Leone, January - December 2001*, p. 5.
- 250 It also meant that the ICCs established to serve the demobilizing child soldiers could also be, and were, used to serve other separated children, such as those among returning refugees and IDPs.
- 251 Some women who spontaneously demobilized, reintegrated well, and new efforts in the East to reunify girls with their families are showing a strong willingness to have the young people come home with their children. As affirmed by the Women's Commission's research, however, this does not happen in every case and girls may continue to be stigmatized by the wider community. Further research is needed on how communities and service providers define successful reintegration and which factors contribute to achieving this success.
- 252 Women's Commission interview, Peacock Farm, Freetown, October 2001.
- 253 UNICEF, *Programme for Demobilisation and Reintegration of Child Combatants in Sierra Leone, January - December 2001*, pp. 13-14. Thus, "camp followers" were only a portion of the 812 separated children served who were not formally demobilized. UNICEF also reports that its program to address sexual abuse victims supported 231 (including 223 girls) cases in 2000, along with those identified in 1999. According to the report, "support included counseling and medical services for 212 newly registered cases and education and skills training for 585 cases. Support for reintegration into primary and secondary schools was provided to 340 of which 244 were child mothers. Skills training and income-generating support was provided to 195. Fifty girls received training on basic business principles and bookkeeping."
- 254 This was especially difficult for girls returning from the RUF into areas that had been terrorized by the group.
- 255 The Lomé Peace Agreement supports the call for a strong role for women in post-conflict reconstruction. Article XXVII, paragraph 2 states, "Given that women have been particularly victimized during the war, special attention shall be accorded to their needs and potentials in formulating and implementing national rehabilitation, reconstruction and development programmes, to enable them to play a central role in the moral, social and physical reconstruction of Sierra Leone."
- 256 This is according to the World Bank-administered Multi-Donor Trust Fund Report, progress report number 8, December 31, 2001. As of that date, a total number of 69,681 had been disarmed; 65,813 were demobilized; 62,952 discharged; and among those disarmed were 6,683 child combatants. The program anticipated that 45,000 ex-combatants, including an estimated 15,000 RUF, 15,000 CDF, 13,000 AFRC and ex-SLA and 2,000 paramilitary groups, would go through the program, with a total of 5,400 children among them all. As of December 31, 2001, 22,496 RUF (150 percent of the original estimate), 36,450 CDF (243 percent), 8,964 AFRC/ex-SLA (69 percent), 1,771 paramilitary (89 percent) and 6,683 child combatants (124 percent) participated, which is 155 percent of the original estimate.
- 257 Women's Commission and Makeni research team interview, Makeni, April 2002.
- 258 Women's Commission and Makeni research team interview, Rural Integrated Communities Development Organization (RICDO), Makeni, April 18, 2002. At the time of the interview, RICDO had 213 students, 173 of them former combatants.
- 259 Makeni research team interview, St. Francis Secondary School,

- Makeni, April 25, 2002.
- 260 Women's Commission and Makeni research team interview with former combatant youth, Makeni, April 18, 2002.
- 261 Women's Commission interview with a formally demobilized adolescent girl, Peacock Farm, Freetown, October 2001.
- 262 Women's Commission interview, Makeni, April 25, 2002.
- 263 Women's Commission telephone interview, Director of the Center for the Coordination of Youth Activities, Freetown, August 2002.
- 264 Women's Commission interview, UNICEF, Freetown, April 23, 2002.
- 265 Women's Commission interview, Caritas-Makeni, Makeni, April 16, 2002.
- 266 NCDDR, *Status of Reintegration Activities for Discharged Ex-combatants*, February 18, 2002.
- 267 Women's Commission interview with a formally demobilized young woman, Peacock Farm, Freetown, October 2001.
- 268 Women's Commission interview, Makeni, April 2002.
- 269 Women's Commission interview, Caritas-Makeni, Makeni, April 25, 2002.
- 270 UNICEF also reports that donors are resistant to retroactive DDR and any focus on a "fix" might be "counterproductive" to the well-being of children and adolescents in the short and long runs. Women's Commission interviews with UNICEF, Freetown, March and April, 2002.
- 271 *Fifteenth Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone*, United Nations Security Council, S/2002/987, September 5, 2002, para. 47. See also paragraphs 48 and 49 related to children and adolescents.
- 272 *Peace Agreement Between the Government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone*, Article IX, para. 2, Lomé, Togo, July 7, 2002.
- 273 *20 Questions and Answers on the TRC*, flyer produced by "a TRC Sensitization program."
- 274 *Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)*, [www.sierra-leone.org/trc.html](http://www.sierra-leone.org/trc.html).
- 275 The TRC can summon current or former government officials and others to testify and will adopt measures to safeguard those who testify, including approaching testimony from women and children in ways that respect their dignity and minimized retraumatization. As a result of this process, the TRC will make recommendations on the rehabilitation of victims of human rights abuses. In August 2002, due to budget cutbacks, the TRC was forced to delay activities and public hearings until November 2002. See: *Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and 20 Questions and Answers on the TRC*.
- 276 First citation: United Nations, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1315, August 14, 2000, [www.un.org/docs/scres/2000/res1315e.pdf](http://www.un.org/docs/scres/2000/res1315e.pdf); second citation: Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone on the Establishment of a Special Court for Sierra Leone, Article 1, [www.un.org/docs/sc/reports/2000/915e.pdf](http://www.un.org/docs/sc/reports/2000/915e.pdf).
- 277 Makeni research team interview, Makeni, April 16, 2002.
- 278 Women's Commission interview with former RUF child combatants, Makeni, April 2002.
- 279 Women's Commission interview, Makeni, April 2002.
- 280 Makeni research team interview, St. Francis Secondary School, Makeni, April 25, 2002.
- 281 Freetown research team interview, Cline Town, Freetown, April 16, 2002.
- 282 Makeni research team interview, St. Francis Secondary School, Makeni, April 24, 2002.
- 283 Freetown research team interview, Cline Town, Freetown, April 16, 2002.
- 284 Other commissions, including the Human Rights Commission and the Commission on War-Affected Children, should also prioritize these issues.
- 285 Freetown research team interviews with Sierra Leone Police Force, Congo Cross, Freetown, April 22 and 29, 2002.
- 286 Young people 17 years old and above are treated as any other person under the law in Sierra Leone.
- 287 *Sierra Leone Resettlement Strategy, Enabling the displaced to rebuild their lives back in their communities with safety and dignity*, NCRRR, Revised October 2001, p. 4.
- 288 *Protecting Refugees, A Field Guide for NGOs* states "refugees must be able to return in safety and with dignity." Returns in safety must ensure conditions of "legal safety... physical security... and material security, including access to land or a means of livelihood." Returns in dignity mean "in practice, that refugees must not be manhandled; that they can return unconditionally and that if they are returning spontaneously, they can do so at their own pace; that they are not arbitrarily separated from family members; and that they are treated with respect and full acceptance by their national authorities, including having their rights fully restored." *Protecting Refugees, A Field Guide for NGOs, UNHCR and its NGO partners*, 1999, pp. 60-61.
- 289 *Plan of Operation, Voluntary Repatriation and Reintegration of Sierra Leonean Refugees*, UNHCR, September 2001, p. 5.
- 290 According to UNHCR, "'Facilitation' involves protection and assistance measures aimed at refugee-induced voluntary repatriation in situations where UNHCR cannot encourage such repatriation, but is respecting the strong desire of refugees to return voluntarily. Although facilitation is often considered solely in relation to 'spontaneous' self-movement, UNHCR's facilitation of voluntary repatriation may also involve a fully organised operation or a semi-organised one, and this may in some cases involve transport assistance." *Plan of Operation*, UNHCR, September 2001, p. 16. See this document also for a detailed description of the preconditions which must be met before UNHCR will promote voluntary repatriation in Sierra Leone, versus facilitate it.
- 291 *Plan of Operation*, UNHCR, September 2001. In the fall of 2001, temporary settlements in safe areas included Jembe, Gerrihuh and Bandajuma in Bo district and Taama in Moyamba district. Transit centers near Freetown included Jui, Lumpa and Waterloo, and host communities included 21 villages in Lokomassama in Port Loko district and 31 villages in Barri Chiefdom in Pujehun district.
- 292 *Ibid*, p. 9.
- 293 *Sierra Leone Resettlement Strategy, Enabling the displaced to rebuild their lives back in their communities with safety and dignity*, NCRRR, Revised October 2001, p. 4. Thus, the Strategy attempted to address these streams of resettlement holistically and states a commitment to supporting a "standardized resettlement process to avoid inter- and intra-community tensions and to community-based, integrated resettlement, reconstruction and rehabilitation that includes resettling IDPs, displaced returnees, repatriating refugees, ex-combatants and their dependents and resident populations."
- 294 *The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*, OCHA, February 2000, serve as an international standard to guide governments as well as international humanitarian and development agencies in providing assistance and protection to IDPs. Principle 18 states that "All IDPs have the right to an adequate standard of living. At the minimum, regardless of the circumstances, and without discrimination, competent authorities shall provide IDPs with and sure safe access to: essential food and potable water; basic shelter and housing; appropriate clothing; and essential medical services and sanitation," ensuring the "full participation of women in the planning and distribution of these basic supplies." Principle 28 states that "Competent authorities have the primary duty and responsibility to establish conditions, as well as provide the means, which allow IDPs to return voluntarily, in safety and with dignity, to their homes or places of habitual residence, or to resettle voluntarily in another part of the country. Such authorities shall endeavour to facilitate the reintegration of returned or resettled IDPs." Principle 16 also allows that "All

- IDPs have the right to know the fate and whereabouts of missing relatives,” which is especially important to separated children and adolescents.
- 295 Non-food items include, per household regardless of size, two cook pots, five plates, five cups, five dining spoons, two cooking spoons, one knife, one lantern, one bucket/jerry can, two mats, two blankets and four soaps.
- 296 UNHCR leads the refugee repatriation and reintegration efforts, and IDP returns are coordinated by OCHA. These processes are also guided by the Resettlement Strategy originally formulated by the NCRRR, which became NaCSA. NaCSA is responsible for assuring protection and assistance to IDPs, choosing agencies to run IDP camps. District-level NaCSA offices were not fully up and running in all places at the time of the research, further hindering effective resettlements. Different implementing partners are responsible for providing portions of the assistance package, for example, WFP is the major provider of food, and IOM provides much of the transportation. At times, needed supplies were out of stock, further complicating the process.
- 297 Regardless of the seriousness of the gaps in repatriation and resettlement assistance, it should be noted that efforts by international groups are also appreciated by many. For example, some former refugee young people in the Jui transit center stated they believed UNHCR had ultimately “helped them a lot.”
- 298 *Populations Affected by War in the Mano River Region of West Africa: Issues of Protection*, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières, May 2002.
- 299 As described in the Women’s Commission report, *Untapped Potential, Adolescents Affected by Armed Conflict* (2000), ‘psychosocial’ can be defined as follows, “The term ‘psychosocial’ underlines the close relationship between the psychological and social effects of armed conflict, each the one type of effect continually influencing the other. By ‘psychosocial effects’ is meant those experiences that affect emotions, behavior, thoughts, memory and learning ability and how a situation may be perceived and understood. By ‘social effects’ is meant how are defined the ways in which the diverse experiences of war alter people’s relationships to each other, in that such experiences change people, but also the experience through death, separation, estrangement and other losses. ‘Social’ may be extended to include an economic dimension, as many individuals and families becoming destitute through the material and economic devastation of war, thus losing their social status and place in their familiar social network.” Dr. Mike Wessells, a professor at Randolph Macon University and expert on the psychosocial effects of armed conflict on children, further comments that the meaning of “psychosocial” varies according to cultural context.
- 300 Freetown research team interview, Freetown, April 8, 2002.
- 301 Women’s Commission interview, Makeni, April 12, 2002.
- 302 Women’s Commission and Makeni research team interview, Makeni, April 18, 2002.
- 303 Women’s Commission interview, Makeni, April 25, 2002.
- 304 Women’s Commission and Makeni research team interview, Makeni, April 2002.
- 305 Freetown and Makeni Research Team Participant Questionnaires, Freetown and Makeni, April 2002.
- 306 Women’s Commission and Freetown research team interview, Tombo, April 18, 2002.
- 307 Women’s Commission interview with Osman Kamara, Psychosocial Supervisor, Caritas - Makeni, Makeni, April 15, 2002.
- 308 Women’s Commission interview, Makeni, April 17, 2002.
- 309 *Ibid.*
- 310 Women’s Commission interview, Freetown, October 2001.
- 311 Women’s Commission interview with Osman Kamara, Psychosocial Supervisor, Caritas - Makeni, Makeni, April 15, 2002.
- 312 Women’s Commission interview with Chris Day, MSF-H, Makeni, April 15, 2002.
- 313 Freetown research team interview, Freetown, April 8, 2002.
- 314 *Ibid.*
- 315 Concern categories were deliberately mixed up on the page so that potentially predictable top concerns were not grouped in any one place on the list. The distribution of responses throughout the list of choices across survey location and sub-group shows respondents went through a considered process before making choices. Note also that the small groupings of research team members (about four attended each focus group) changed regularly, so no one or two researchers were administering the survey all the time.
- 316 The phrasing of this question was specifically designed by the adolescents to connote a commonly known reference to the RUF. They made this doubly clear to the survey participants in their instructions to them before filling out the survey forms.
- 317 For the purposes of the survey, the terms “adolescent respondent” are used to describe survey participants between the ages of 10 and 19. The word “youth” is used to describe those between 20 and 24. “Adult” is used to describe survey respondents who were 25 and older. Using these terms in this way is for the purposes of clarity only, and is not meant to negate or confuse other uses of these terms, where adolescents are also youths and youths are also adults, etc.
- 318 A total of four youth and six adult surveys were also excluded from final analysis due to incomplete data.
- 319 In order to calculate averages, any choice that was not ranked by a respondent (i.e., was not ranked 10 through 1) was given a value of zero.
- 320 Readers are referred to the two previous reports from the Women’s Commission for more information on overlapping findings: *Making the Choice for A Better Life: Promoting the Protection and Capacities of Adolescents Affected by Armed Conflict in Kosovo* (January, 2000) and *Against All Odds: Surviving the War on Adolescents, Promoting The Protection and Capacities of Ugandan and Sudanese Adolescents in Northern Uganda* (September, 2001), [www.womenscommission.org](http://www.womenscommission.org).
- 321 Article 12.1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states that “States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.” Article 13.1 of the CRC states, “The child shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child’s choice.” Text provided in this box is reprinted from Women’s Commission, *Against All Odds: Surviving the War on Adolescents*.
- 322 Makeni research team statement of purpose developed in Makeni training, April 12, 2002.
- 323 Freetown research team statement of purpose developed in Freetown training, April 6, 2002.
- 324 The focus groups provide an overall qualitative look at the range of issues of concern to adolescents and details about these concerns. The case studies provide a more detailed look at specific issues uncovered, and the surveys help identify the relative importance of the range of issues described.
- 325 *Krio* is the language of the Krios in Sierra Leone and among all tribal languages is the one most widely spoken by people of different tribes. *Temne* is the native language of the Temne tribe, residing mainly in Sierra Leone’s northern region. Displacement has led to people of many different tribes being spread to different parts of Sierra Leone, and thus, Krio was also used in interviews in the north.
- 326 The only promises made to the research team members by the Women’s Commission were that: the study itself would last four

- to six weeks; they would participate in a three-day training; they would receive payment for their work, but any additional involvement in follow-up activities would be voluntary; it would be a learning experience; they would be able to make recommendations for action, and their findings would be published in individual team reports and in a Women's Commission report, which they could use in the manner of their choice; and that the Women's Commission would work with them on follow-up advocacy activities.
- 327 These and the quotes in the two sections below are from Research Team Participant Questionnaire responses, Freetown and Makeni, April 2002.
- 328 Researchers set their own schedules and only did sessions when they were available. Each researcher had to participate in a minimum of four focus group sessions and produce two case studies. Many ultimately decided to do more than this.
- 329 This researcher was under the false impression that they were being rated and paid accordingly. Instead, every young person and adult adviser was to be paid the same amount for completing the research activities according to their terms of reference.
- 330 As noted earlier in this section, some parts of the text are taken from previous adolescent studies, with minor alterations to them. This is one such section, as is the accompanying chart Adolescent Participation: Some Lessons Learned. They are borrowed from Women's Commission, *Against All Odds: Surviving the War on Adolescents in Northern Uganda*.
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- 333 Makeni research team interview, Makeni, April 27, 2002.
- 334 United Nations, *Human Rights Instruments: Charts of Ratification of International Instruments*, International Labor Organization and UNESCO, [esa.un.org/socdev/unyin/country3e.asp?countrycode=sl](http://esa.un.org/socdev/unyin/country3e.asp?countrycode=sl). Sierra Leone ratified the CRC on June 18, 1990, the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict on May 15, 2002, and the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol on May 22, 1981.
- 335 Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, *Sierra Leone sets up National Commission for War-Affected Children*, Press Release, Freetown, April 29, 2000.
- 336 Women's Commission interview, UNAMSIL, Freetown, April 10, 2002.
- 337 Women's Commission interview, UNICEF and Office of the Special Representative for the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, New York, August 13, 2002.
- 338 *Ibid*.
- 339 Women's Commission interview, UNAMSIL, Freetown, April 10, 2002. See also: Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, *Sierra Leone sets up National Commission for War-Affected Children*; UNOCHA, *Sierra Leone: Humanitarian Situation Report 01-31 Jul 2002*, July 31, 2002.
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- 342 Women's Commission telephone interview, New York, August 2002.
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- 345 Freetown research team report, Sierra Leone, 2002.
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- 347 The Declaration calls on member states to establish an office within ECOWAS for the protection of war-affected children in the sub-region and to review the activities of ECOWAS in the protection of war-affected children in the region.
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- 349 UNOCHA, *2002 Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Sierra Leone*, November 28, 2001.
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- 352 Women's Commission interview, World Vision Sierra Leone, Freetown, April 5, 2002. See also: Women's Commission interview, USAID, Freetown, April 11, 2002; USAID/Sierra Leone, *Annual Report (Parts III-VII) FY2002*.
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