

SIERRA LEONE POST CIVIL WAR PERIOD

Dr. Karima Maazouzi

Tahri Mohammed University (Bechar) (Algeria)

ABSTRACT

During the civil war, Sierra Leone was characterized by social disintegration, an autocratic rule and economic malaise. However, after years of mayhem, a discouraging series of failed peace deals and broken ceasefires as well as several military coups and assorted international interventions, order and peace had returned to the country. But despite the fact that Sierra Leone war was officially over since 2002, partly due to tensions and conflicts in neighbouring states, the situation had remained fragile and life was a struggle for the majority of Sierra Leoneans. The massive violence to which they had been exposed had inevitably left many of them psychologically and physically scared. The war had been the cause of mass displacement of population, creating refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, and had also bad consequences on those who had been amputated.

This article will attempt to assess the impact of the war on Sierra Leoneans, especially children, women, refugees and displaced persons; the status of the disabled in general will also be described. The article will also consider the impact of the rebel war on the economic and political field.

Key Words: Sierra Leone, post war, impact, social, economic, political

INTRODUCTION

For eleven years, a people who used to live a simple and peaceful life were subjected to constant fear and trouble. During the war, for most of the time, there was total breakdown in security for the country's civilian population. They became targets of destruction and were used as labourers and human protection. They were humiliated and many had been left deeply traumatised. The decade-long conflict resulted in bad effects on the country. The total number of casualties was conservatively estimated to some 70,000 people, who lost their lives in the fighting. Hundreds of thousands of others suffered amputations or were otherwise maimed, and some 2.6 million Sierra Leoneans were either internally displaced or refugees in neighbouring countries. Crimes against them mainly children and women included rape and sexual violence generally went unpunished; furthermore, they contributed to the culture of silence and impunity that prevailed.

The impact of the civil war had been unfathomable and the damage immeasurable. Sierra Leoneans were mourning the loss of loved ones and grappling with the emotional and physical traumas of the war. They were ready for change and aspired to live peacefully. Many of them left

their hometowns in order to seek shelter from the horrors of the war and others remained in Freetown, hoping to find a better future in the city. Moreover, with no access to water, sanitation and electricity throughout much of the country, people had struggled just to survive. What were the other effects of the war, and what was the impact of the war on the whole country?

Impact on the Population

The Impact of the Conflict on Children and Women.

The conflict had a great impact on children. Physically some children were wounded in the war with guns, knives, axes and such like, which resulted in bodily injuries. Consequently, they experienced pain and other general discomfort to the extent that some of them needed help for the rest of their lives. Of particular importance in this category were those children who suffered amputations and mutilations from armed groups. Some estimates state that over 3000 children were kidnapped in a single incidence in Freetown.¹ Their experiences had impacted negatively on their psyche and social development. At the end of the conflict, thousands of homeless children became physically and psychologically frightened.

Many of them did not know their real names and had forgotten the structure of family kinship, such as the relation to one's aunt or uncle.² These children had chronic fear and anxiety, mainly fear of retribution and feeling of guilt. Many child soldiers faced moral breakdown when they lost contact with their community.³

A donor agency survey was carried out on the number of children so as to assess the levels of violence and psychological trauma experienced. This was after January 1999 invasion of Freetown. It shows that 71% of the children saw pictures of their worst experience in their minds; 94% thought about their worst experience even when they did not want to; 72% were plagued by nightmares and bad dreams; and 76%, unsurprisingly, worried that they might not become adults.⁴

Children had also been subjects to drugs which exacerbated their psychological, social and physical situations. According to Dr. Edward Nahim, the psychological impact of the drug had led many children to suffering from schizophrenia.⁵ Furthermore, many of these children had

¹ 'Sierra Leone and the War that Indignified its People' www.fardasl.org

² Douglas, Farrah, *Children Forced to Kill*, Washington Post, 8 April, 2000.

Goodwin-Gil, Guy & Ilene, Cohn, *Child Soldiers: The Role of Children in Armed Conflict*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994).

Plan Ireland, Children in Disasters Programme, "The Importance of Education in Disaster Rehabilitation – The Rapid Education Programme in Sierra Leone", 2000; available at the following website: www.plan-ireland.org/pdfs/childrenindisasters. In October 1999, Plan Ireland commissioned an assessment of the violence and psychological trauma experienced by 315 war displaced children at four IDP camps in or near Freetown. In July 2000, it also carried out a "rapid" assessment of the psychosocial conditions of children in Moyamba District.

Edward Nahim, "Sierra Leonean Psychiatrist and Commentator on Use of Drugs during the Conflict", TRC ⁵ interview conducted at Kissy Mental Hospital, Freetown, 30 July 2003.

problems to do well at school and thus showed a decline in their performances attributable to their drug habit. Of particular concern were the adolescents in tertiary institutions whose schooling was affected.

Since the conflict had caused the loss of breadwinners within families, children had been forced to become economic contributors and in some cases providers for their families. Many of them engaged in trading and other commercial activities in the streets of Freetown and other large towns. A “multi-indicator cluster survey” conducted in 2000 in Sierra Leone, indicated that 48% of children were found to be engaged in unpaid work and 10% of these children spent more than four hours a day on such tasks. Furthermore, in the same year, 72% of Sierra Leonean children were working in some capacities, namely domestic and agricultural work.⁶ Besides, they were used as labour in the diamond-mining industry before the war,⁷ and increased in number during the conflict. In the post-conflict period, many families also resorted to pledge their children as labour.⁸

Indeed, physical and psychosocial effects of the conflict had a definitive impact on Sierra Leonean children. They became outcast and vagrants who used to sleep in the streets without money and family care. In this context, the United Nations expressed:

In countless cases, the impact of armed conflict on children’s lives remained invisible. The origin of the problems of many children who had been affected by conflicts was obscured. The children themselves might be removed from the public, living in institutions or as was true of thousands of unaccompanied and orphaned children, existed as street children or became victims of prostitution. Children who had lost parents often experienced humiliation, rejection and discrimination. For years, they suffered in silence as their self-esteem crumbled away. Their insecurity and fear could not be measured.⁹

Overall, both children and women suffered from violence and political thuggery and were subjected to different kinds of atrocities and cruelty. So, economic opportunities had to be provided to the youths and measures could be taken to address their social inclusion, especially as they constituted 2.5m of the population, including vocal number of ex-combatants.¹⁰

Government of Sierra Leone; *Report on the Status of Women and Children in Sierra Leone at the end of the Decade*, November 2000, 60-61.

World Vision; Submission to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on the occasion of the TRC⁷ Special Thematic Hearings on Children, 16 June 2003 (hereinafter “World Vision submission to TRC”),3.

⁸ The War-torn Societies Project (WSP-International): www.wsp-international.org/

⁹ Elisabeth Rehn and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, *Women, War and Peace: The Independent Experts’ Assessment on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and Women’s Role in Peace-building*, United Nations Development Fund for Women, (New York, USA 2002.),13.

¹⁰ Rehn, Elisabeth and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf., *Women, War and Peace*.,13.

Furthermore, when peace had returned to the country, many of the wounds remained open. Women were encountered by both physical and psychological scars. Many gave birth to children from their terrible experiences. Women and girls who were violated throughout the conflict were ostracised from society for giving birth to children of “rebels.”¹¹ They refused to reveal their stories because they were afraid to be humiliated by their loved ones, families, friends and communities. They were punished and neglected by society because of the deeds that were committed against them. However with regard to custom and tradition, women had played a subservient role. The conflict eroded these traditional customs and practices that had placed constraints on women in the past and restricted their mobility. Therefore, political, social and economic reforms were needed to offer both children and women an opportunity to have a better and comfortable life. What about internally displaced persons and refugees?

Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's) and Refugees

Among the consequences of any conflict is the massive migration of people that occurs as they try to flee from areas of violence to safe destinations. In the course of this movement, huge numbers of the population were uprooted. The latter usually fell into two categories: internally displaced persons¹² and refugees.¹³ A major consequence of the Sierra Leone conflict was the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians from their homes and villages. The Commission recorded 8,397 violations of this nature, with women accounting for 3,128 (or 37,3%) of the victims.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there were approximately 50 million refugees, with 75% to 80% of them women and children.¹⁴ As estimated by the UN, 1.6 million people were displaced in 1996 within Sierra Leone (the majority in Freetown and major provincial towns) and 370,000 became refugees in neighbouring countries. After the 1997 coup, 530,000 refugees fled Sierra Leone; a further 237,000 left as a consequence of the renewed hostilities beginning in February 1998. Further displacements occurred with a resumption of the fighting in 2000 as a result of bombs and helicopter-gunship raids by government forces.¹⁵

¹¹ Government of Sierra Leone. 2005b

¹² Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of, or in order to avoid the effects of, armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights, or natural or human made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border. See Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General, “Guiding Principles on Internally Displaced Persons”, policy note, A56/168; 21 August 2002.

¹³ In international law as applied by the Commission, a refugee is described as a “person who, as a result of a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his or her nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear is unwilling, to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country.” See the Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees 1951, at Article I-A-(2).

More details on the global situation relating to refugees can be found at the UNHCR website : www.unhcr.org.¹⁴
Economist Intelligence Unit 2005.¹⁵

When the war ended, an estimated 1.2 million had been internally displaced and a further 800,000 were regarded by agencies as being in need of emergency assistance. A further 320,000 had been displaced outside the country's borders, 200,000 to Guinea and 120,000 to Liberia,¹⁶ up to 500,000 refugees in Gambia, Ghana and Ivory Coast. At least 55 percent of the refugees were women.¹⁷ Women and girls reported how their names would be taken off lists for food and aid if they refused to have sex with peacekeepers and humanitarian workers. In fact, the Commission found the latter responsible of the exploitation and violation of women's rights. In this regard, the Commission decided to prosecute them to make recommendations so as to avoid this kind of abuse taking place in the future.

Civilian refugees had accounted for more than 90% of all refugees.¹⁸ As the conflict escalated, a massive number of educated Sierra Leoneans left the country, a fact that worsened the massive brain drain from the country. While many took refuge in neighbouring countries, a huge number settled in Europe and the USA. Many refused to return back as their memories of the conflict were bitter. This loss of human power had resulted in enormous economic loss for Sierra Leone. In 2005, the government estimated that 90% of those who were refugees abroad had come back and one million IDPs had been resettled.¹⁹ UNHCR had assisted some 272,000 Sierra Leonean refugees who returned to their country of origin from Guinea and Liberia between the years 2000 and 2004.²⁰

People Disabled by the War

The war had also bad consequences on those who had been amputated or disabled by the war. They can be considered as constant reminders and evidence of the atrocities performed. Amputees reported that they had not felt cared for by society in post-war Sierra Leone,²¹ and that they had been indeed the scars of the nation.²²

Sierra Leone Consolidating the Recovery and Reconstruction Process, Country Assessment Report, A report ¹⁶
prepared by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) under the auspices of the
AU/NEPAD Sub-cluster on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia March
2008,28.

¹⁷ United States Agency for International Development and Office of U.S., Foreign Disaster Assistance,
USAID/OFDA Situation Report, No 1, 6 August 1996.

¹⁸ Volume Three B Report of the Sierra Leone TRC,214.

¹⁹ *Sierra Leone Consolidating the Recovery and Reconstruction Process*,.28.

²⁰ Stefan, Sperl and Machtelt De Vriese, 'From Emergency Evacuation to Community Empowerment:
Review of the repatriation and reintegration programme in Sierra Leone', United Nations High
Commissioner for Refugees, Evaluation and Policy Analysis Unit, Geneva, February 2005 quoted.in
The Role of Education in Peacebuilding, Case Study – Sierra Leone, United Nations Children's Fund,
New York, 2011, 43.

²¹ Nick, Heeren, "Sierra Leone and civil war: Neglected trauma and forgotten children". *Revue
Humanitaire*, vol. 9. Medecins du Monde, Paris, 2004.

Victor E.M, Gbegba, and Hassan, Koroma, "The Psychological Impact of Civil War in Sierra Leone", ²²
Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, 2003.

For instance, women who had had their limbs amputated; had their future entirely compromised. They were unable to earn living and their husbands left them because they were incapable or unwilling to look after them. The transformation of their bodies had bad influence on their self-esteem. Many amputee women expressed their feeling of being incomplete, ashamed and not worthy of being loved. They were unhappy and refused to interact with other members of society. This had severe and negative implications for their continued development in both public and private spheres.²³

The loss of one hand for amputees could be compensated by exclusive use of the other hand. A stump could support a functional prosthesis for working or else an aesthetic one.²⁴ However, the concern was in the loss of touch that resulted in the loss of one of our five essential senses. This latter could deprive the maimed of external and proprioceptive information necessary to the building of the body schema.²⁵ This sensitive function of the hand could not be replaced and no prosthesis could alleviate its absence.²⁶ Such individuals could no longer feed themselves, dress, or go to the toilet without assistance. They found themselves a burden to a group who had already struggled for survival and were in a state of utter depression.²⁷

HEALTH

Before the war, the health sector in the country was already in bad conditions. During the conflict, it was further devastated. In these circumstances, the health of children had been affected more than that of adults because of the former's innate vulnerability. Sierra Leone was estimated to have lost more than 50%²⁸ of health facilities due to armed-rebels' deliberate target of destroying them. Over 415 health units and equipment and supplies, including 15 main hospitals and 150 primary health centers had been completely damaged.²⁹ Medical supplies and laboratory services continued to crumble and the massive displacement of civilians during the civil war had tremendously undermined the already inappropriate healthcare system in the country. Cities in provinces were overwhelmed with civilians fleeing the violence, resulting in overcrowding, outbreak of diseases and the collapse of overburdened social services. The main health problem in Sierra Leone was malaria as well as other epidemics associated with poverty and poor hygiene, such as tuberculosis, typhoid, cholera and outbreaks of Lassa fever. Therefore, humanitarian and church organizations had to provide much of the healthcare in the country.

²³ Women's NGO Coalition submission to TRC, 11.

Colp, R., Ransohoff, N.S. 1983. "The Krukenberg Stump. Krukenberg's Operation, Indications and limitations". *J. Bone Joint Surgery* 1933; 15: 439-43.

Irmay, F., Merzouga, B. and Vettorel, D. 2000, "Treatment of double hand amputees in Sierra Leone", ²⁵ *The Lancet*, vol. 356, Issue 9235:1072-1075.

²⁶ Colp, Ransohoff, "The Krukenberg Stump. Krukenberg's Operation, Indications and Limitations", 439-443.

²⁷ Heeren, Sierra Leone and civil war, 343.

²⁸ Pearl Praise Gottschalk, "How are We in this World Now?" Examining the Experiences of Persons Disabled by War in the Peace Processes of Sierra Leone, (University of Victoria, 2007), 40.

Ginifer Jeremy, *Armed Violence and Poverty in Sierra Leone*, Centre for International Cooperation and Security, Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford, March 2005., 27.

Indigent families found it difficult to access basic health care for themselves and their children. The situation was most acute in the rural areas where the greatest numbers and the poorest persons in the country resided. Thus, health care had become one of the casualties of the conflict. Women's health was badly affected, this was particularly true in the area of life-threatening pregnancies, lack of access to birth control measures and injuries, which arose from sexual violence. They suffered enormous mental trauma from the exigencies they had experienced and consequently, became physically and psychologically scared. Women's groups reported that in many emergency situations, spontaneous abortions occurred as a result of the extreme mental and physical stress. Moreover, many women died because no immediate medical assistance and proper health care were available. Factors such as the destruction of family and community networks and support systems, poverty and the loss of livelihood lessened the capacity of women to take care of their own and their families' health.

Maternal mortality rate on the other hand, was exceptionally high, 1,800 per 100,000 live births.³⁰ Few births were attended by skilled personnel, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) continued to be seen as a public health priority. A study carried out by UNICEF in 2003 revealed that 46% of infant mortality was attributable to malnutrition,³¹ which was spreading among people deprived of access to adequate food, clean water and health and sanitation facilities. Malnutrition continued to be a problem and contributed significantly to the high infant mortality rates in the country.³²

To meet deficiencies, in post-conflict reconstruction, Sierra Leone decided to restore basic services, but mental health was not included though a large number of people had suffered conflict-related stress and trauma. Kissy in Freetown was the only hospital that provided them with basic medical care.

EDUCATION

The war confronted children with the most brutal expressions of human cruelty at an early age and consequently shattered their childhood. Many of them ascribed their handicap to have access to education to the protracted conflict. In this context a child testified "... We were with them until we were taken away from them by the kamajors in 1996. Up to today, I did not get any education. I am a drop out in the village." ³³

At peace time, there was an implementation of major policy measures, including the abolition of tuition fees and school feeding, a fact that led to a significant increase in primary school enrollment. The total number of pupils had tripled in less than four years. However, many dropped out of school after Grade One. This increase in the pupils' enrollment was faced by teachers' shortage in the educational institutions.

The Ministry of Finance staffing ceiling for all teaching staff supported by Ministry for Education, Science and Technology (MEST) amounted to 25,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2003. The total number on the payroll in December 2003 was 21,213, 15 percent less than the ceiling and

Economist Intelligence Unit. 2005.³⁰

Sierra Leone Consolidating the Recovery and Reconstruction Process, 29.³¹

WHO. 2004, *quoted in Sierra Leone Consolidating the Recovery and Reconstruction Process*, 29.³²

³³ TRC confidential statement recorded in Pujehun Town, 28th February, 2003.

nearly 7 percent less than the payroll total in September 2001. The ceiling was subsequently increased to 28,000 for FY 2004.³⁴ According to the National Recovery Committee, a total of 19,700 teachers were working in primary schools in May 2003. However, only 16,059 primary school teachers were on the government payroll in December 2003.³⁵ A total of 5048 secondary teachers at 240 schools were on the government payroll at the end of 2003. Nearly 40 percent worked at 49 schools in Freetown and another quarter was at schools in Bo and Kenema Districts. Koinadugu District had only six secondary schools with only 55 payroll teachers.³⁶

As regards women, the literacy rate was worse for them. Many girls dropped out earlier and they constituted only 42% of pupils in primary education. The gap was progressively widening in later stages: females accounted for 19% university students.³⁷ Of those aged 10 years and older, only 39 percent were literate.³⁸ The rates varied greatly by age, gender, and region. Half the male population was literate, compared to only 29 percent of the female population. Literacy rates in the Western area were twice as high as those in the other regions. Educational attainment across the population of Sierra Leone was low, with an average of less than 4 years of education completed for males (aged 15 years or older) and less than 2 years for females.³⁹

On the other hand, in post-conflict Sierra Leone, many youths who failed at schooling believed they could not return to school because they were too old. They were designed to remain unqualified. Many of them were unemployed. They could be seen all over the country, many of them begging and stealing so as to earn their living. Youths remained cut of the stabilizing ties of affection, intimacy and emotional support. Post-conflict education had to be recovered and teachers and pupils situation had to be improved.⁴⁰ This bad educational situation badly affected the Sierra Leonean economy.

The Impact of the War on Sierra Leonean Econom

In the post-conflict, Sierra Leone emerged in a very weak economic position. The network of infrastructure and public services was largely destroyed. For instance, the coverage of the devastation involved rural settlements, mines, banks, industrial concerns, roads, bridges and fund. The Government faced an institutional vacuum. Consequently, assisted by its donor partners, it responded with an ambitious program of institutional reform and economic development. The reforms aimed to foster economic growth while strengthening the institutional environment to promote better governance and lasting peace.

The Impact of the War on Public Infrastructure

KPMG, 2003, in Jeanne Beryl Harding & Augustine Tejan Mansaray, *Teacher Motivation and Incentives in Sierra Leone*, Senior Lecturer, Division of Educational Studies, INSEEMS, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, 5.
Ibid.³⁵
Ibid.³⁶

³⁷ Government of Sierra Leone: MDG report for Sierra Leone. 2005.

Statistics Sierra Leone 2004.³⁸

³⁹ Government of Sierra Leone: MDG report for Sierra Leone. 2005.

Ginifer, *Armed Violence and Poverty in Sierra Leone*, 27.⁴⁰

The war had massive impact on the country's infrastructure. Over 2500 villages and towns throughout the country and over 6000 private homes in Freetown alone were destroyed.⁴¹ The limited feeder and trunk road networks were damaged. Several roads in and around Freetown and segments of the Freetown-Kenema highway linking the capital to the east of the country became in a weak state. The hard surface road linking Freetown to Makeni and Kabena in the north were in a good shape.⁴² Major rural areas became unattainable and restricted the movement of both people and goods. Moreover, large-scale destruction of economic and social infrastructure, including the mining sector, the production, distribution and marketing of agricultural commodities, took place.

The country's needs in the different fields were immense and still growing. In the urban areas, the need for developing the road network in the populated areas and providing transportation and lorry parks with storage facilities, became part of the strategy to tackle congestion problems in Freetown and supply some of the urgent requirements of the major townships. The 2005 Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper of Sierra Leone stated that to overcome the major constraints confronting the country's economy, roads and the transport sector had to be improved and given a great importance because of the strong link that existed between them and the rest of the productive and social sectors.

The Impact on the Political Aspects

The Impact on Political Structure and the System of Governance.

Although the war was officially declared over in 2002, and Ahmad Tejan Kabbah won a majority in the presidential elections, the government institutions remained weak. Since the beginning of the war, these institutions had been weakened due to the brain drain of a number of professionals. Those who remained in the Civil Service or other professions lacked the means to carry out their duties. However, this interruption competently provided an opportunity for the government and people to set fresh aims and preferences for the Sierra Leonean society. Thus, when the war was declared over, the government endeavoured to ensure political stability, good governance, accountability and transparency in order to enable the country to fulfil its political, economic and social aspirations. The Civil Service was strengthened to better manage social and economic development. Besides, an important consideration was given to strategic public administration that would be more accountable. Efforts were made to enhance pluralistic forces including civil society organizations, women and labour groups and to raise the flow of information on development policies and programmes.

At a national level, the capacity and flexibility of the Sierra Leonean state were undeniably greater than they were both before and during the civil war. The state had a greater ability to

⁴¹ Appendix 2, Part 4: Submissions, The Sierra Leone Civil Service - A Presentation to the TRC on Behalf of the All Peoples Congress (APC Party) Presented by Hon. Wusu B. Munu. Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, 2003.

⁴² Ibid.

absorb risk and shocks. Key state institutions such as the armed forces and the police were better trained and equipped and became more responsive to their political masters. Besides, both the APC and SLPP had experienced a degree of internal reform with younger and more technically skilled members who had a great influence. An independent judicial system was also established and corruption was addressed. Consequently, it became possible for citizens to take the government to court.

However, unaccountability within government institutions was a problem that had to be solved. Therefore, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) had created an official organization to tackle corruption. As Sierra Leone was highly dependent on foreign aid, and as anti-corruption measures continued to be a central donor's condition, the president affirmed his commitment to the cause and actual measures had been taken.⁴³ On the whole, we can say that the key to Sierra Leone national peace, stability and development lay in good governance. There was an absolute need to reconstruct a new nation in which citizens would have equal opportunities and freedom of choice, in an environment in which service delivery would be transparent, accountable and auditable. The Sierra Leonean people had to form an environment in which healthy competition prevailed, and aggrieved persons and institutions had avenues for swift redress.

CONCLUSION

Indeed, post-war trauma caused by the brutalities of wartime experiences might be healed if all sectors of post-war civil society were taken into account and carried along in the reconstruction and reconciliation processes. Therefore, all hands were to be on deck to promote post-war reconstruction and peace building. Successful post-war peace building and reconstruction hinged largely on the availability of funds, support and commitment to the realization of complete disarmament, demobilization and the reintegration of former fighters.

For a lasting peace and effective and sustainable reconstruction, Sierra Leone had to provide its citizens with their basic needs, safety, justice and develop targeted programmes for youth employment to enhance their sense of worth and citizenship. It had also to encourage economic activities, promote its self-sufficiency, expand manufacturing, strengthen the mining sector and rebuild its infrastructure. Furthermore, the improvement of the educational sector and the learning environment are so essential therefore Sierra Leone had to build more schools and train additional teachers to guarantee access to education for more children. Health and economic empowerment as well as political participation for progressive development of women in the Sierra Leonean society deemed necessary to secure peace and achieve fruitful results in the aftermath of the conflict.

REFERENCES

⁴³ Government of Sierra Leone: MDG report for Sierra Leone. 2005.

- Appendix 2, Part 4: Submissions, The Sierra Leone Civil Service - A Presentation to the TRC on *Assessment on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and Women's Role in Peace-building*, United Behalf of the All Peoples Congress (APC Party) Presented by Hon.Wusu B. Munu. Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, 2003.
- Colp,R., Ransohoff, N.S. 1983. "The Krukenberg Stump. Krukenberg's Operation, Indications and Commissioner for Refugees, Evaluation and Policy Analysis Unit, Geneva,February 2005 quoted.in *Disabled by War in the Peace Processes of Sierra Leone*,(University of Victoria, 2007).
- Douglas, Farrah, *Children Forced to Kill*, Washington Post,8 April, 2000.
 - Economist Intelligence Unit. 2005.
 - Edward Nahim, "Sierra Leonean Psychiatrist and Commentator on Use of Drugs during the Conflict", TRC interview conducted at Kissy Mental Hospital, Freetown, 30 July 2003.
- Gbegba, Victor E.M and Koroma, Hassan., "The Psychological Impact of Civil War in Sierra Leone", Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, 2003.
- Giniifer Jeremy, *Armed Violence and Poverty in Sierra Leone*, Centre for International Cooperation and Security, Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford, March 2005.
- Goodwin-Gil,Guy & Cohn,Ilene, *Chid Soldiers: The Role of Children in Armed Conflict*,New York : Oxford University Press,1994.
- Gottschalk ,Pearl Praise, "How are We in this World Now?" Examining the Experiences of Persons Disabled by War in the Peace Processes of Sierra Leone, University of Victoria, 2007.
- Government of Sierra Leone. 2005b
- Government of Sierra Leone: MDG report for Sierra Leone. 2005.
- Government of Sierra Leone, *Report on the Status of Women and Children in Sierra Leone at the end of the Decade*, November 2000.
- Heeren, Nick. "Sierra Leone and Civil War: Neglected trauma and forgotten children". *Revue Humanitaire*, vol. 9. Medecins du Monde, Paris, 2004.
 - Irmay, F., Merzouga, B. and Vettorel, D., "*Treatment of double hand amputees in Sierra Leone*", *The Lancet*, vol. 356, Issue 9235:1072-1075, 2000.
 - KPMG, 2003, in Jeanne Beryl Harding & Augustine Tejan Mansaray, *Teacher Motivation and Incentives in Sierra Leone*, Senior Lecturer, Division of Educational Studies, Inseems, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone.
- Gottschalk ,Pearl Praise, "How are We in this World Now?" Examining the Experiences of Persons Disabled by War in the Peace Processes of Sierra Leone,University of Victoria, 2007.
- Plan Ireland, Children in Disasters Programme, "The Importance of Education in Disaster Rehabilitation,The Rapid Education Programme in Sierra Leone", 2000; available at the following website: www.plan-ireland.ie
- Rehn, Elisabeth and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf,, *Women, War and Peace: The Independent Experts' Assessment on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and Women's Role in Peace-building*, United Nations Development Fund for Women, New York, USA, 2002.
- Rogers, Alusine, *TRC Statement*, recorded in Kpaka Chiefdom, Pujehun District, March 22nd

- ,2003.
- 'Sierra Leone and the War that Indignified its People' www.fardasl.org
 - *Sierra Leone Consolidating the Recovery and Reconstruction Process, Country Assessment Report*, A report prepared by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) under the auspices of the AU/NEPAD Sub-cluster on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia March 2008.
 - Sperl, Stefan, and Machtelt De Vriese, 'From Emergency Evacuation to Community Empowerment: Review of the repatriation and reintegration programme in Sierra Leone', United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Evaluation and Policy Analysis Unit, Geneva, February 2005, quoted in *The Role of Education in Peace building, Case Study – Sierra Leone*, United Nations Children's Fund, New York, 2011.
 - The War-torn Societies Project (WSP-International): www.wsp-international.org/
 - UNIFEM 2004, quoted in *Sierra Leone Consolidating the Recovery and Reconstruction Process*.
 - United States Agency for International Development and Office of U.S., Foreign Disaster Assistance, *USAID/OFDA Situation Report*, No 1, 6 August 1996.
 - Volume Three B Report of the Sierra Leone Truth & Reconciliation Commission Graphic Packaging Ltd Press, Accra, Ghana, 2004.
 - World Vision; Submission to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on the occasion of the TRC Special Thematic Hearings on Children, 16 June.