SIERRA LEONE NATIONAL REPORT

FOR

THE SIXTH AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA 22 – 27TH NOVEMBER 1999

AUGUST, 1999 FREETOWN
The preparation of this National Report is Sierra Leone's attempt to document its strides and present an assessment of its efforts at implementing the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action.

The commitment of the Government of Sierra Leone to increase the well-being of Women, examine their situation from a gender perspective and to promote their full involvement in every facet of the nation's development, was further strengthened with its participation in the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China in 1995. Such commitment had been established with Sierra Leone's participation in the First World Conference on Women held in Mexico City, Mexico in 1975.

Notwithstanding the intensification of the rebel war which started in 1991, and the various obstacles encountered due to continuous political instability, Sierra Leone has in its own small way been striving to meet the declared purpose of the Fourth World Conference on Women, which is the removal of obstacles to Women's full participation in all spheres of public and private life.

Organizations, Movements and Women's Forums that advocate and work for Women's Education with special emphasis on Education of the Girl Child have multiplied remarkably. Active use has been made of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in our bid to express concern over and condemn the high violence experienced by women especially in recent times. Such violence have included abduction, rape, amputation and other atrocities either witnessed or experienced by women or girls in particular. There is now concerted effort to eradicate these altogether from our society.

The women of Sierra Leone laud the effort of His Excellency the President, Dr. Ahmed Tejan Kabbah in working relentlessly towards peace, culminating in the signing of the Lome Peace Accord. The women crave that peace will be sustained to permit their full contribution, to the economic and political development, including decision-making process and all areas of sustainable development in the country.

As policies are developed, strategies defined and specific actions implemented, the women of Sierra Leone continue to strive for success in gaining access to power, not for its own sake, but for the doors it will open to opportunities and resources to improve the lot of the woman and the girl child in Sierra Leone.

Mrs. Shirley Y. Gbuiima
Minister, Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs
LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADRA – Adventist, Development and Relief Agency

AFRC- Armed Forces Revolutionary Council

CAW- Children Associated with the War

CBO-Community Based Organisation

CEDAW- Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women

CRC- Convention on the Rights of the Child

CSO- Central Statistics Office

ECOMOG- Economic Community Monitoring Group

FAWE- Forum for African Women Educationalist

FOMWASL- Federation of Muslim Women’s Association -Sierra Leone

GOSL- Government Of Sierra Leone

HDI- Human Development Index

ICPD- Implementation Conference on Population and Development

IEC- Information, Education and Communication

IMF- International Monitoring Fund
MCSL/Women’s Network - Methodist Church -Sierra Leone

NCAP- National Aids Control Programme

NCDHR- National Commission for Democracy and Human Rights

NGO- Non Governmental Organisation

NOWSL- National Organisation for Women-SL

NPRC- National Provisional Ruling Council

PPASL –Plan Parenthood Association – Sierra Leone

PWC – Partners Women’s Commission

RUF- Revolutionary United Front

SAPA – Social Action for Poverty Alleviation

SAP- Structural Adjustment Programme

SEGA- Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis

SLMWA- Sierra Leone Medical Women’s Association

STD- Sexually Transmitted Diseases

UN- United Nations

UNDP- United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF – United Nations Children’s Educational Fund

YWCA – Young Women’s Christian Association

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# Table Of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foreword</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>List of Acronyms and Abbreviations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table of Contents</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part I: Overview of Report</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part II: Introduction</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part III: Evaluation</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Peace</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Poverty</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 Health</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4 Education</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part IV: General Constraints</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part V: What Remains To Be Done</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part VI: Strategic Actions</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliography</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annexes</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART I

Overview of Report

This report highlights the activities of Government Ministries and NGO’s in Sierra Leone after Beijing (from August 1995 to date) in relation to the four (4) critical areas of concern – Peace, Poverty, Health and Education identified at National level and agreed upon by the Government of Sierra Leone and NGO’s as of the highest priority. Although these constitute the four most critical areas of concern identified in the country, work is also being done in the other eight (8) areas of Global concern.

Despite the fact that Sierra Leone has been in the throes of an exceedingly dehumanizing civil conflict for almost nine (9) years the country remains committed to giving visibility to women’s concerns, with the view to enhancing their participation in all spheres of national development as well as to improving their socio-economic status.

In the light of the above, the following main achievements have been made:

1. Policies have been formulated, Action Plans developed, Strategies defined and specific actions are being implemented to address the four critical areas of concern.

2. A Peace Accord was signed in Togo on July 7, 1999 between the Government and RUF. This has led to cessation of hostilities and is ushering in gradual movement to sustainable peace.

3. Access to micro-credit schemes/financial institutions and skills development to enhance women’s small business enterprises is on the increase.

4. The health problems, especially women and girls, are being addressed in areas such as maternal mortality, unsafe abortion, teenage pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV/AIDS.
5. The education of women and the girl child has been given prominence and measures are being taken to build their capacities.

Women are increasingly involved in and benefiting from activities undertaken to address the above critical areas of concern.

Considerable strides have been made by women to be actively involved in peace building including human rights issues and the democratization process. Also, efforts have been and are still being made in the design of programmes, projects and plans of action including other interventions for mainstreaming gender to ensure gender empowerment, equity and equality in every sphere of the development process as the Millennium is approached.
PART II: INTRODUCTION

2.1 The Economy

Sierra Leone is a small West African country with a population of about 4.5 million and a growth rate of 2.6 (CSO, 1985). It has rich mineral resources (the main ones being diamond, gold, bauxite and rutile) and agricultural resources such as coffee, cocoa and palm kernels. Agriculture is considered as the backbone of the economy and employs about 75% of the population.

Despite this huge resources potential, the country's economic growth performance has been one of long-term decline which helps to explain the high levels of poverty and human deprivation in the country. The decline started in the 1970s after an impressive annual average growth rate of nearly 4% in the 1960s (the first decade of independence). This slowed down to 0.9% in the 1970s and further to 0.5% in the 1980s. An average negative growth of -6.9% in the 1990s is generally attributed to the deleterious consequences of the civil conflict.

The adverse impact on human development in the country over the years of such a weak growth performance can be gleaned from the significant difference in the low annual average growth rate of 1.2% in the 1970s and 1980s and mostly negative growth rates in the 1990s on one hand and average annual population growth rate of 2.6% over the same period, on the other. This implies considerable decline in living standards.

As a result of the weak economic performance in 1990, over 75% of the population were classified as income poor, i.e. living below the poverty line of one US dollar a day. The rural areas bore a disproportionate share of the brunt of poverty. Several studies indicate that close to 60% of the poor lived in rural areas, 24% in large towns and the remaining 19% in small towns.

The Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) which dictated the removal of subsidies, paved the way for a further decline in public services in health, education and other social sectors, wage freezes, and increased prices for food and other commodities. Hence, poverty has hit the women hardest, especially as the majority of them have little or no access to education and training, credit, land etc. coupled with an IMF programme and the war which has deepened the plight of women.

The country's annual Human development indices and ratings since the publication of the first UNDP Human Development Report in 1980 indicate a persisting unfavourable human development picture. Its HDI ranking has never been far from "the bottom of the league". This unfavourable human development situation is attributable to regression in most areas of human development over the past two decades, with the civil conflict playing an increasingly dominant contributory role.
2.2 Education

The education system in Sierra Leone has been in a state of crisis for many years even before the war. Resource allocation to the education sector has been generally poor. In addition to this, there have been policy weaknesses as well. Academic training, providing little prospect for employment continues to be accorded priority in terms of budgetary allocation, thereby "crowding out" resources for the essential skills development, vocational training and education.

In terms of statistics, quite apart from an extremely low current national overall literacy rate of only 32%, significant rural-urban and gender disparities also exist. Adult literacy for females is only 23%, as compared to 36% for males. Primary school enrolment for girls is 43% as against 57% for boys. While the enrolment rate for Freetown is estimated at 70%, that for some parts of the rural areas stands at only 20%. Drop out rates are also high, especially for girls, estimated at 25% between grades 1 and 2.

To address this situation, a transformation of the education system to a 6-3-3-4 system in 1993/94, began with six years of primary, three years of junior secondary, three years of senior secondary, and four years of tertiary education. The new system emphasises basic and non-formal primary education with the education of the girl-child as one of the key elements. Technical and vocational training for middle level manpower is to be reinforced through restructuring of tertiary education, including the establishment of polytechnics. However, realization of the anticipated positive impact of these reforms have been hampered by persisting civil conflict and resources constraints.

2.3 Health

The health sector has suffered the same neglect as the education sector. This is reflected in the gloomy picture portrayed by the country's health indicators. Life expectancy presently stands at 40 (1996/97). A key factor in this is high infant mortality - 169 per 1000 in 1996/97. Though this marks an improvement compared to a rate of 200 in the 1980s, when the country had the highest infant mortality rate in the world, it still exceeds the average for the African countries. Rural-urban disparities in the access to health services are severe. While the national overall estimate is 28%, 90% of the urban population has access to health services as compared to only 20% for the rural areas. Also, 75% of the urban population has access to sanitation as against 40% for the rural areas.

Women face additional health problems arising mainly from their reproductive role. Inadequate access to reproductive health facilities, teenage pregnancy, unwanted pregnancy and unsafe abortion and malnutrition are the major factors behind the high maternal mortality rate, currently estimated at 1800 per 100,000 which is three times higher than the average of 600 per 100,000 for
Sub-Saharan Africa. Family planning is not widespread as reflected in the contraceptive prevalence rate of only 6%. All this reflects a particularly low provision and or poor state of reproductive health facilities.

Sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS are on the increase with the number of reported cases rising from 23 per 1000 in 1992 to 62 per 1000 in 1997. As at 30th September 1998, the NACP registered the cumulative total of 317 AIDS cases, out of which 285 have died. About 881 of HIV infection cases are carriers of the AIDS virus. Conditions for rapid propagation of the disease exist as is evident in the increasing number of cases of unprotected sex with many partners, the low use of contraceptives, polygamy, poverty and civil conflict.

2.4 Children Especially in Difficult Circumstances

The nine-year civil conflict and the corresponding increase in family poverty have led to an increase in the number of children in difficult circumstances. Of an estimated 2.1 million internally displaced persons, about 700,000 were children. In a night-time count of unaccompanied children in Bo in 1995, over 25% of the children surveyed were aged 10 years or less, and 15% were girls aged between 6 and 14 years.

A large number of these children have been orphaned or separated from their parents, and are currently living in the streets exposed to drug abuse, and other related crimes. Girls have suffered additional gender-related problems such as sexual assault, rape and commercial sexual exploitation, leading to an increasing number of teenage pregnancies, single parenthood and maternal deaths. Only a small percentage of unaccompanied street children are covered by basic and psycho-social services. A small percentage was also covered by residential and foster care programmes. These limited services are plagued with inadequate targeting mechanisms and logistics. Although trauma counseling, family tracing and reunification services, which are critical for the rehabilitation of these children, have been established, the problems faced by children will continue to grow if the income earning capacity of families continue to decline, due to economic dislocation and human insecurity.

2.5 Women In The Labour Force

An estimated 51.3% of the population are females, and they form the majority of the rural labour force. Their efforts at sustaining the family are subdued and hardly ever given monetary value. Because of their low educational attainment, women's access to wage employment is low, particularly the relatively highly paid professional, managerial and technical jobs. In formal sector employment, women account for 40.5% of the clerical cadre and only 8% of the administrative and managerial cadre. The sectors in which women are most commonly employed are agriculture where they constitute 55% of the labour force, and sales. In the professional/technical, managerial/ administrative categories, the
gap is even wider. Women own the majority of informal sector enterprises as petty traders and vendors. All of this has implications for the status of men and women in society in terms of wage levels and job security.

2.6 Access To Productive Inputs

Women are deprived access to productive inputs such as land, labour, capital/credit and skills. There are about twice as many women engaged in business in Sierra Leone as there are men but the rate of success is at variance with the numbers because access to loans and land have stereotype conditions that discriminate against women. Consequently, only a few entrepreneurs make it to the top and even this success is short lived. Women are therefore often faced with frustration emanating from socio-economic, cultural and marital pressures and criticism that range from feminization, political and consanguineous influence.

2.7 Equity, Decision Making and Political Participation

Although the Constitution of Sierra Leone guarantees equality between men and women, legal impediments to women’s advancement persist. These arise mostly from customary and statutory laws. For example, women in marital union may be denied inheritance of property on the death of the husband. Mainstreaming gender-considerations into the decision-making process and development programmes and projects would go a long way in correcting the imbalances between men and women.

Despite women’s very formidable participation in challenging the NPRC to return this country to democracy in 1996, their participation in political opportunities remains severely limited. They constitute less than 10 per cent of persons in the Executive Arm of Government - Parliamentarians, Cabinet Ministers and Municipal Counselors. Men continue to dominate parliamentary representation (92.2%) but female representation at 7.8% makes a slight improvement vis-à-vis past governments since independence in 1961. Currently, the cabinet comprises only 3 women compared with 18 men. There is therefore considerable scope for the involvement of more women in decision-making at all levels of society. A research in female self perceptions and attitudes of Sierra Leonean Women aged 15+ years revealed that women who are educated, exposed and have good source of income are more likely to be involved in decision making relating to their development.

After nearly three decades of dictatorship, including 14 years of one party system of government, and military rule, Sierra Leone entered a new era of democracy in 1996 with the election into office of Sierra Leone People’s Party. The new political dispensation re-opened the door for popular participation in decision making. Several civic society groups countrywide participated actively in the struggle to ensure that the military government of the NPRC returned the country
to a truly representative democracy side by side with the political parties which emerged at the time. The Women's Forum in particular, along with the Labour Union and Council of Churches, took frontline roles and demonstrated distinctive leadership qualities by their participation at the Bintumani I and II Consultative Conferences in February and August, 1996 respectively. The pivotal role played by civil society in bringing down the AFRC/RUF junta in February 1998, preceded by determined civil disobedience during the interregnum is also clear evidence of the high level of participation in the country.

The commitment of the present Government to effective political participation is underscored by the nationwide consultative process launched in November Government also recognises that it is imperative to decisively confront the obstacles and restrictions that hinder women's full participation in the economic, social and cultural development of the country. The legal equality of men and women must be reflected in equal access to education and training opportunities for production, well-paid employment, access to power and decision-making structures within government and private sectors, the political and labour union, and in organised groups of civil society. To accomplish these, attempts have been made to identify priority objectives, strategies and actions that consider all dimensions of social development. The government, UN agencies and NGOs (both international and local) have been working to address the above problems.
PART III

Evaluation

The African Platform for Action is derived from the Regional Country-based Evaluation of the implementation of Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and that obtained from grassroots communities, governments, NGOs and United Nations Agencies at regional and sub-regional levels. Consensus was reached at Dakar Regional Conference (1994) about the need for providing opportunities for the advancement of women and devising strategies for action. This implementation was to be continually guided by standards based or partly influenced by CEDAW and various other UN Conventions and Declarations which serve as standards against which women's progress could be measured. The Fourth World conference on Women held in Beijing, China in 1995 also came up with a similar Declaration.

The Beijing Conference drafted and adopted the Platform for Action which lists twelve critical areas of concern. These are areas identified as main obstacles to the advancement of women. The Platform for Action offers corresponding strategic objectives and actions to be taken by governments, the international community, NGOs and the private sector in the period between the Beijing Conference and the Year 2000 to remove existing obstacles to women. These twelve critical areas of concern are the following:

1. The persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women.
2. Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to education and training.
3. Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to health care and related services.
4. Violence against women.
5. The effects of armed or other kinds of conflict on women, including those living under foreign occupation.
6. Inequality in economic structures and policies, in all forms of productive activities and in access to resources.
7. Inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels.
8. Insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women.
9. Lack of respect for and inadequate promotion and protection of the human rights of women.
10. Stereotyping of women and inequality in women's access to and participation in all communication systems, especially in the media.

11. Gender inequalities in the management of natural resources and in the safeguarding of the environment.

12. Persistent discrimination against and violation of the rights of the girl child.

(UN, 1995)

In Sierra Leone the four areas of concern have been identified and agreed upon by all stakeholders at national level as areas of priority concern. It has been recognised that implementation of strategic actions are required at an accelerated pace by government ministries, UN agencies and NGOs.

The priority areas are:

PEACE

Considering the significance of peace for development in Sierra Leone, government embarked upon peace overtures that culminated in the signing of the Abidjan Peace Accord in 1996. The Accord made provision for cessation of hostilities as well as for setting up mechanisms for the demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration of combatants. Importantly for the release of abducted persons, especially women and children. Unfortunately, this peace accord was not fully implemented as a result of the military take-over on May 25, 1997. The Conakry Peace Plan (1998) which required the military to hand over power back to the democratically elected government did not work because the military wanted to stay on. This non-compliance with the peace plan resulted in the ECOMOG intervention of February 1998 resulting in the restoration of the legitimate government. The Togo Peace Agreement signed on July 7, 1999 between the Government and the RUF/AFRC brought about cessation of hostilities. The signing of the Togo Peace Agreement can only be seen as a first step towards sustainable peace.

Various women's groups have taken initiatives complimentary to Government's efforts to restore a stable and secure a peaceful environment in Sierra Leone. Women's groups have implemented planned programme/project activities singly or collectively within the framework of the women's forum. These activities are being undertaken in collaboration with Government institutes, UN agencies, and international and local NGOs. Planned programme/project actions and achievements in the period 1995 to date under this area of concern include the following:

Objective 1

To mobilise women nationwide to lobby and canvass support for promoting the peace process, restoring and strengthening democracy in Sierra Leone.
Activities

1. Women's groups nationwide organised periodic mass sensitization rallies/campaigns on the need for cessation of hostilities by the rebels and ending the attendant acts of violence against civilians, especially women and children.

2. Training workshops on trauma healing, counseling services and peace issues organised and implemented with active participation of women at all levels of society throughout the country.

3. Promoted active involvement of various levels of women's groups among other interest groups and political parties in the democratisation process. A process which commenced with the Bintumani Consultative Conferences on Peace Before Elections and continued through the electioneering period, to the process of dialoguing and negotiations for peaceful resolution of the civil conflict.

4. Encouraged enlistment of more professional women into the forces.

Objective 2(a)

To organise and conduct nationwide sensitization seminars and awareness raising workshops designed to provide information, explain concepts, processes and impart knowledge and skills for stimulating positive behavioural/attitudinal change in society with the active involvement of women.

Objective 2(b)

To organise and conduct awareness raising workshops designed to develop and produce materials including training modules on positive behaviour, peace and human rights issues, with the active participation of women.

Activities

1. Conducted with full participation of women, several radio/TV panel discussion on civics, peace and human rights issues.

2. Focused campaigns on violation against women including women's rights and those of children.

3. Conducted workshop/seminars on violence against women.

4. Conducted workshop for development and production of awareness raising materials, training modules on peace, human and civic rights.
5. Invited war abducted and harassed females for counselling and relevant medical treatment.

Objective 3

To produce support and assistance to war affected population groups particularly displaced and abducted persons targeting women and children.

Activities

1. Constructed camps/shelters for displaced persons and distributed food, household utensils as well as other relief items among the displaced targeting women and children.

2. Instituted reunification programmes in collaboration with UNICEF, ADRA and CAW for the released women and children.

Achievements

1. Bintumani I in February and II in August 1995 respectively, resulted in active participation of women. They rallied and demonstrated against the military government before Bintumani II. About 20% of groups which made statements at Bintumani were women. Lobbying by women at national and international levels gained support. Chairing of both conferences was by a woman.

2. Lome Peace Agreement - Five men and four women were in the government negotiating team and others served in the group of facilitators/observers.

3. Forum members e.g. FOMWASAL were part of a delegation which met and dialogued with RUF members the Mano River bridge in 1996.

4. Women visited rebel bases to encourage the rebels to put down their arms and release abducted women and children.

5. Forum members sent out peace messages to the RUF and called upon the movement at several press conferences to cease hostilities and end the rebel war in Sierra Leone.

6. Production of a training module “Education for a Culture of Peace” by FAWE Sierra Leone Chapter. The module was presented at the Pan African Women’s Conference on a Culture of Peace, May 17-20, 1999. The module was accepted at the conference for formal and non-formal educational settings, to teach a culture of peace in conflict situation in Sub-Saharan Africa.
7. Many workshops have been organised to train the civil society. For instance, one such workshop alone in 1998 trained 65 participants as trainers who up-to-date have trained 234 persons at grassroots level.

8. Women groups and organisations participated fully in almost all the peace initiatives of the Women's Peace Movement. These included mass campaigns, rallies and sensitisation workshops on peace education. NOW (SL) were resource persons and guest speakers on peace issues organised by other forum members such as Methodist Women's Network. Such peace issues include violence against women.

9. Women members participated as members of the civil society delegation to the Togo peace negotiation between government and the RUF. A process which has now culminated in the signing of the Lome Peace Agreement on July 7, 1999.

10. NOW (SL) continues to disseminate awareness raising messages, developed during a ten-day national workshop organised by NCDHR in 1999, among communities with which it interacts. The communities are mobilised to continuously organise radio listening circles during which messages are discussed to stimulate positive behavioural changes.

11. Women’s Forum initiated advocacy activities directed at super powers. In this respect letters were addressed to the President of United States, Prime Minister of United Kingdom and to sister organisations in the sub-region calling upon them to prevail on the RUF/AFRC to desist from further atrocities and to pressure the RUF to implement the Peace Plan signed with the Government and the people of Sierra Leone. Advocacy brochure was prepared and disseminated in the sub-regions.

12. In 1997 YWCA organised a 10 day Training of Trainers workshop on Trauma Healing; 80 participants were drawn from members in the Western Area, Southern and Eastern Regions. Topics discussed were: Reconciliation, Peace, Counseling, Stress, and Trauma and Rehabilitation. Community Based trauma healing and reconciliation workshops have also been conducted.

13. A one-day seminar on Violence Against Women was held on 19th May 1998 and there were about 80 men and women participants drawn from market women, working class and professionals including women’s groups from the Women’s Forum.


15. A National Child Protection Committee was set up in 1997 to restore normalcy in the lives of children through family reunification, ensuring access to health,
education and other basic services, supporting the psycho-social recovery of children in distress, and promoting family and community mediation.

16. In 1999 a Protocol to govern the interaction of children with media to ensure the full protection of the children was developed.

17. A database on Family Tracing and Reunification and Child’s Rights Violations has been set up. Since April 1998, 6,340 registrations have been made, 7,385 tracing requests have been received, 4,076 families have been traced, 3,203 families have been reunited, 3,175 follow-up visits have been made, and 2,679 child rights violations have been recorded.

18. The National Commission on Democracy and Human Rights (NCDHR) Legal Aid and Advisory Services Unit provides free legal services for the redress of wrongs in the country, especially in the areas of rape, violence against women, sexual abuse/harassment and sexual discrimination.


20. Dialogue for the release of children and conscripted by the fighting forces has been and will continue as part of the advocacy efforts for the protection of children associated with the fighting forces.

21. Training of Human Rights Monitors nationwide was conducted by the National Commission for Democracy and Human Rights (NCDHR).

22. The NCDHR and SLANGO organized a national conference on the empowerment of women for participation in decision making at the Miatta Conference Centre in Freetown, February 17 – 19, 1999.

(See Annex I)

POVERTY

Since the Beijing Conference, the Government of Sierra Leone has intensified implementation of its poverty alleviation interventions. Its policy agenda includes a strong focus on women and young persons. A number of women’s NGOs have also embarked on strategic actions dealing with various aspects of human poverty.

The aims in all of these actions are to empower people and communities at all levels, particularly women and young persons in rural and depressed urban areas, through measures including capacity building and employment creation, interventions, coupled with strategies for equitable access to available resources.
Significant consideration is given to gender mainstreaming and population groups most at risk namely women, children and war victims in ongoing government poverty alleviation programmes.

Objectives:

The objectives under this critical area are as follows:

Objective 1

Facilitate and increase women's/girls access to functional/basic education, training and productive inputs.

Activities

1.1 Provided information on available resources and how to access them.

1.2 Provided funds and other resources to government institutions and non-government organisations for implementation of poverty reduction activities.

1.3 Invited and encouraged women groups to participate in the strategic planning and priorities selection process.

1.4 Provided support to educational/training institutions for training various groups including displaced and disabled women/girls in small enterprise development, credit operations, cooperative education and monitoring skills for small business.

1.5 Provide training in entrepreneurship and loan obligations.

1.6 Disbursed loans (cash, seeds and foods) for vegetable/other food crops gardening and petty trading in a revolving scheme.

1.7 Conducted training workshops/seminars awareness raising including conscientization workshop/seminars on gender mainstreaming in national development process using socio-economic and gender analysis (SEGA).

Objective 2

Build and strengthen women's livelihood skills and promote expansion, through diversification and increased capitalisation of their small scale businesses.
Activities

2.1. Training of trainers workshop on improved vegetable/other food crops gardening and petty trading undertaken.

2.2. Provided support to women and girls to pursue skills training in fields otherwise considered non-traditional – civil, mechanical, electrical engineering, metal work, engineering fields, road construction, automobile and information technology fields.

2.3 Provided skills training in improved agricultural techniques for women extension workers.

Objective 3

a) Advocate and lobby for provision of conditions/situations which enable women to effectively utilize available resources and/or opportunities.

Activities

3.1a) Organised and conducted sensitization, information sharing/dissemination, and training sessions on gender issues which constrain and over-burden women’s productive work.

b) Advocate and lobby for provision of increased wages and provision of day-care facilities in near places of work.

Activities

3.2 Organised and conducted sensitization programmes through campaigns, TV/radio discussions.

3.1 Women NGOs facilitated networking, exchange visits, information sharing among community groups participating in micro-credit schemes.

Achievements

Noteworthy results include:

1. The development in 1996 of a National Action Plan for Poverty Alleviation centred around six pillars which, in each area incorporated gender mainstreaming as a strong element in its implementation.

2. The Social Action and Poverty Alleviation (SAPA) Programme significantly strengthened in 1997 with an increase in personnel and expanded its activities to include rehabilitation and reconstruction of educational facilities and established a
model system for accessing/unfitting from its micro-credit scheme.

3. The Ministry of Finance, Development and Economic Planning in 1998 and to date has provided micro-credit to the tune of US$100,000.

4. At least about 10 other micro-credit financing institutions, multilateral and bi-lateral donors including the National Development Bank, National Cooperative Development Bank have disbursed loans already/or through many women's NGOs from which especially women and youth groups have benefited.

5. Five (5) training workshops on Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis for mainstreaming gender into development policies/programmes were conducted between 1996 and 1998. At least 30 persons drawn from sectional ministries, UN agencies and the University of Sierra Leone and women's associations have been trained.

6. Significant quantities of seeds seedlings, vines and cuttings and small scale farming implements are distributed yearly since 1996.

7. Several hundreds of women vegetable gardeners/subsistence farmers have received training in better planting/farming techniques.

8. Not less than 100 female petty traders from communities have received micro-credit nationwide in 1999 alone.

9. Materials development workshop on the Empowerment of Women for active participation in decision making in the country was conducted by NCDHR and SLANGO at Bintumani from February 9 – 14, 1997.

10. The government developed a National Action Plan for Poverty Alleviation in 1996. This plan is centred around six main pillars and these are:
- Social Sector Development;
- Food Production and Food Security;
- Improved Safety nets for vulnerable groups;
- Employment creation and income generation;
- Human resource development/capacity building; and
- Environmental management and infrastructural development (GOSL, 1996)

11. With the signing of the Peace Agreement, Humanitarian Missions have been to assess the humanitarian situations in Kailahun, Makeni, Magburaka and Kono all of which have been behind rebel lines while the rest of the country is being carefully monitored. This was possible by setting up a co-ordinating mechanism comprising the NCRRR, UNHACU, SLANGO, NGOs managing camps, providers of relief items and the related line ministries.

12. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs (formally Ministry
of Gender and Children Affairs) was established in 1996 due to the awareness of the need to recognise women’s present and children’s future contribution to the development efforts. The Ministry’s mandates are to coordinate all issues pertaining to the gender and children and to promote and advocate for the documentation and empowerment of all marginalized groups, especially women and children.

(See Annex II)

HEALTH

Improvement in the health status of the population is high on the government’s agenda and focus is now on extending the health care service coverage to the greater number of the population with special emphasis on primary health area. Health facilities within reasonable reach are to be provided throughout the country. The health requirements of children under five, adolescent girls and women of childbearing age are to receive special attention.

Additionally, while efforts are directed at providing care for most common ailments, the emphasis is on preventive than curative therapies. In this regard, sanitation is considered as a key element in promoting good health.

Objectives

The objectives of this critical area are:

Objective 1

Increase women’s access throughout the life cycle to appropriate, affordable and quality health care, information and related services.

Activities

1.1 Various PHUs, Health centres rehabilitated and refurbished in the Western Area and some in the Southern and Eastern Regions.

1.2 Provided essential equipment, drugs and logistics including transport.

1.3 Developed appropriate advocacy and IEC materials to address the problem areas and to promote family planning for men and women on reproductive health issues.

Objective 2

Strengthen preventive programmes that promote women’s health, undertake gender-sensitive initiatives that address sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, reproduction and adolescent health issues, and safe motherhood

23
Activities

2.1 Organised and conducted sensitization meetings for men and women, in particular the youths regarding the prevention of RTIS, STLS and HIV/AIDS.

2.2 Developed appropriate materials on the prevention of STLS, RTLS and HIV/AIDS to be included in the school curriculum.

2.3 Trained health workers in diagnosis management and treatment of STLS, RTLS and HIV/AIDS provided emergency obstetric services and trained TBAs on how to identify these pregnancies.

2.4 Provided adolescent friendly services, trained youth in peer counselling and organised sensitization activities far in and out of school youths.

Objective 3

Promote good health of people, especially women and children including the youth, especially adolescents, through sanitation.

Activities

3.1 Organised workshops, seminars/meetings on environmental sanitation, for example, food hygiene, water management, food handling practices, etc.

3.2 Multi-media dissemination of environmental sanitation messages through radio/TV and print media such as newspapers and posters.

3.3 Existing legislation on environment reviewed and its endorsement and enforcement advocated.

3.4 Constructed and maintained protected wells and dams and where appropriate construct and promote family owned VIP latrines facilitated by government and various NGOs including women's organisations.

Achievements

1. The government in collaboration with WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, and NGOs such as PPASL, Marie Stopes, CHASL, Sierra Leone Red Cross, Red Crescent, African Muslim Agency and Medcin Sans Frontiers and local women's organisations are variously providing Primary health Care Services, including sexual and reproductive health care, family planning information and services, and promoting public information on the benefits of breast feeding.

2. Existing health facilities in the Western Area are being refurbished and satellite clinics have been built particularly in the capital, Freetown, to strengthen and reorient
health services, particularly health care, in order to ensure access to quality health services especially for women and girls; and reduce ill-health and maternal morbidity and mortality.

3. The health education division of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation in collaboration with the above mentioned UN systems and NGOs in health, have been preparing and disseminating accessible information through public health campaigns, the media, reliable counselling and the education system. This is to ensure that women and men, particularly young people can acquire knowledge about their health, especially information on sexuality and reproductive health issues, sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS, and trauma healing and counselling.

4. Despite the rebel war which had been going on for nine (9) years, data collection has been going on, on a piece meal basis in relative safe areas of the country by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs, Central Statistics Office (CSO), UN system and NGOs in health. There are however gaps in the data generated and that collected is mostly not disaggregated by sex.

5. The National Health Policy was formulated in 1996. Specifically, the policy sets to improve the quality of life of women and children by putting in place strategies to reduce their levels of morbidity and mortality. The Government has also developed a National Health Plan which is currently being reviewed for implementation in collaboration with the donor community.

6. The Social Action and Poverty Alleviation (SAPA) Programme is supporting the rehabilitation and reconstruction of facilities, provision of furniture, and basic training of MCH Aides.

7. Training and in-service training for health personnel have been conducted at national and regional levels; and basic working tools provided for health personnel, especially traditional birth attendants (TBAs).


9. Environmental awareness campaigns have and are being carried out through the mass media: nature clubs formed in schools; and a National Tree Planting Day instituted.

10. Three policy documents have been formulated. The National Environmental Policy (NEP, 1990), which aims at utilizing the Environment and its National Resources in a sustainable way that will maintain and improve its quality. The National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP, 1994); Environmental Management Protection Act (Draft –1996) -- when enacted into law will serve to effectively protect
11. As a response to the government’s concern in relation to the high rate of maternal mortality as stated in the UNICEF – Sierra Leone’s National Report of 1997, the UNFPA and other Donors have assisted the government to develop a programme focusing on the reduction of the high maternal mortality experienced in the country. Implementation of the programme is about to commence.

12. FAWE has established the pregnant/girls-mothers centre which caters for girls/young women who have become pregnant prematurely, and so have dropped out of school or have never been to school. This programme at Grafton started in August, 1996 with 120 beneficiaries.

13. FAWE in collaboration with Marie Stopes Society – Sierra Leone organised an essay competition in 1996 entitled “For Future Health and Wealth, the Girl-Child must be allowed to finish her Education”. In 1996, FAWE in collaboration with UNFPA organised another essay competition focusing on “Responsible Adolescent Sexual Behaviour”.

14. In 1999, FAWE in collaboration with Sierra Leone Association of University Women (SLAUW) and the Ministry of Gender and Children’s Affairs (now Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs – MOSWGCA) organised a three months medical and counseling services programme for rape victims. The sensitization and awareness campaign section of the programme yielded dividend in breaking the culture of silence thereby accessing more victims for the programme.

15. The Young Women’s Christian Association – Sierra Leone (Y.W.C.A.) has been coordinating the Youth to Youth Project Sponsored by IPPF for Youths in various organisations.

16. YWCA conducted a baseline survey on reproductive health in Freetown and Makeni. The study examined a number of issues relating to youths aged 15-35 years on early marriage, unemployment amongst youths and family planning. Workshops were held after this baseline survey.

17. YWCA in collaboration with UNICEF – Sierra Leone and other NGOs in health identified about 100 children and young women aged 10-25 years in Bo and have been providing health, psychological education, skill development and income generating activities.

18. The programme of Action of ICPD mentions the strengthening and dealing with the health impact of unsafe abortion as a major public health concern. In that light, government has set up a directorate of Reproduction Health with a manager as responsible officer.

19. ZONTA – Sierra Leone held a symposium on women’s health in 1996 on mental
19. ZONTA – Sierra Leone held a symposium on women's health in 1996 on mental health in women, reproductive health and family planning, hypertension, stress in women, teenage pregnancy, nutritional problems an anaemia in women, pelvic infection, and sexually transmitted diseases.

20. ZONTA also furnished and provided the needs of the premature baby unit at the Princess Christian Maternity Hospital in Freetown.

21. Sierra Leone Medical Women's Association (SLMWA) in collaboration with the Inter African Committee – Sierra Leone conducted a seminar on traditional practices affecting women's health and safe motherhood.

22. SLMWA and ZONTA – Sierra Leone conducted a symposium on women's health in the areas of mental health in women, reproductive health and sexually transmitted diseases, health of displaced women, nutritional problems in women and prostitution of girls.

23. SLMWA in collaboration with the Sierra Leone Medical and Dental Association cover a health education programme “Weh tin de docta say” meaning “What the Doctors Say”. In this programme, radio talks on women’s health including reproductive health issues cover areas such as cancer in women – breasts, Urinary and Uterus, Pelvic infection, and STDS, particularly among youths.

24. A member of SLMWA participates in a doctors programme “Your Health” on Radio 98.1 F.M. This is a health education programme that covers women’s health, use of bleaching agents and their harmful effects on health, teenage pregnancy, menopause, and STDS.

(See Annex III)

EDUCATION

The focus on education as one of the priority areas for Sierra Leone is justified by the fact that women continue to fair badly as far as the provision for educational opportunities is concerned. Education for women has therefore been seen as priority primarily because the provision of formal and non-formal education for them would lead to their empowerment, build and increase their confidence and self-esteem. It would also equip them with the requisite skills for meaningful contribution to their communities, serve to promote the interests of future generations in the sense that positive notions about the value of education would be passed on to them. The educational system is being restructured among other things to give prominence to the education of the girl child.

Objectives

The objectives considered under this critical area of concern are the following:
To reduce female illiteracy through Non-Formal Education.

**Activities**

1.1 Needs assessment survey for the literacy and civic education programmes in selected districts.

1.2 Development and production of Teaching/Learning materials and curriculum on literacy civic education and income generation in English and some local languages.

1.3 Recruitment and training of 84 facilitators in 47 literacy centres of four districts.

1.4 Commencement of literacy classes in 47 literacy centres in Bo, Kenema, Bombali and Port Loko.

1.5 Launching of Accelerated Literacy Programme (ALP) for 10,000 learners to be made literate in English in six months in the Western Area of Sierra Leone.

1.6 Development of Teaching/Learning materials in English on Reading, Writing and Numeracy and general knowledge for the Accelerated Literacy Programme.

1.7 Strengthening of 175 literacy centres through the provision of Teaching/Learning materials.

1.8 Organize training programme for 235 literacy facilitators in the Western Region.

1.9 Mass literacy campaigns organised by the government, UN agencies and INGOs and NGOs in Education.

1.10 Workshop of the harmonisation of literacy curriculum for Non-Formal Education.

**Objective 2**

To promote enrolment and achievements of both sexes, especially girls in education at all levels.

**Activities**

2.1 Embarked on and intensified sensitization and awareness creation campaigns nation-wide in favour of education, especially for girls.

2.2 Planned and implemented counseling of school pupils, out of school children and parents.

2.3 Used existing monitoring structures to follow-up trace enrolment, participation and achievements and distribute follow-up to promoters.
**Objective 3**

To improve girls and women’s access to and achievement in science and technology and continuing education

**Activities**

3.1 Developed media programmes to sensitize children, parents, the public and agents responsible for pre-school education about positive socialization process for encouraging girls motivation and interest in science related subjects.

3.2 Integrated gender sensitive science and science related activities into syllabus for pre-school education.

3.3 Advocated for a review of production of text books and other resources for mathematics, science, technology for management with a view to making them gender sensitive.

3.4 Produced nation-wide media programmes to sensitize the public, policy makers, administrators, parents, teachers, and girls about MST and science related programmes and careers.

**Objective 4**

To ensure the provision of quality education in all primary schools.

**Activities**

4.1 Undertaken in-service training of teachers in formal schools and facilitators in non-formal primary education centres.

4.2 Textbooks and other teaching/learning materials provided for schools and non-formal education centres.

4.3 Advocated for the provision of quality education by providing textbooks and other teaching/learning materials which are sensitive: advocating teachers needs, especially incentives and work environment.

4.4 Lobbying government and other agencies for adequate financial and other support with a view to improving the quality of education.

**Achievements**

The following have been the achievements:
1. A New Education Policy was published in 1995 and on basic education strategies (P.4) the policy declares that "Because of the healthy multiplier effects of the education of girls and women on families and communities and the educational disadvantages women have suffered over the years, there shall be in basic education programmes positive discrimination in their favour.

2. Consideration has been given to the mechanism for quality control, policy guidance in accordance with the existing Education Act. In an attempt to operate education on the basis of partnership, the Ministry has worked closely with UNICEF and other UN agencies and NGOs in education in fulfilment of the Education Policy of 1995.

3. A unified inspectorate division has been created to perform the monitoring and supervision of education programmes.

4. The Adult Education Unit in the Ministry of Youth, Education and Sports has been upgraded into a division to supervise Adult and Non-Formal Education.

5. The Ministry of Youth, Education and Sports in collaboration with UNESCO, BREDA supported and established 47 literacy centres for 2000 women/girls in Bo, Kenema, Bombali and Port Loko.

6. 1,200 illiterate women and girls made literate in the community language in 47 literacy centres in four districts.

7. Production of artifacts by women learners on commercial basis to set up revolving funds for small-scale enterprises e.g. gara tie-dye, soap making etc.

8. 10,000 copies of literacy primers in four local languages on civic education and income generation.

9. The Ministry of Youth, Education and Sports in collaboration with British Council and ODA now (DFID) launched the Accelerated Literacy Programme for 10,000 learners in the Western Area. 235 facilitators were trained, 175 literacy centres established in the Western Area, 5,000 copies of reading, writing, numeracy and general knowledge materials produced for 4,860 learners in 175 literacy centres.

10. The MYES in collaboration with UNICEF conducted a rapid assessment survey of 229 and 185 (facilities and resources – both human and materials) in the Northern Province, the Western Area, Southern Province and the accessible areas in the Eastern Province. Based on the results, UNICEF supported the rehabilitation of 18 badly damaged primary schools in south, provided 250 primary schools with teaching and learning materials in the form of school kits: supported the MYES to conduct a pre-service training for newly recruited Inspectors and refresher training for Senior Inspectors to enhance their
monitoring and supervisory skills: provided teaching/learning materials for 4000 children in various parts of the country: and printed 2000 copies of the Peace Education Teachers’ Manual for Primary schools.

11. Sensitization activities on the importance of literacy and the need for community participation in the establishment and support of adult literacy programmes for women was completed in 33 communities in Kambia, 15 in Port Loko, 25 in Bombali and 36 in Freetown.

12. A total of 152 facilitators, (69 females and 83 males) have been trained to operate classes for 4000 female learners in the Kambia, Port Loko and Bombali Districts. Additionally, 340 facilitators have been identified out of which 120 have been trained – 40 in the Western Area, 40 in Port Loko and 40 in Kambia; and 114 to participate in the implementation of the project; 11,807 learners have also been registered for participation in the programme; and plans are currently on going for the training of the rest of the facilitators identified. Also, a survey was conducted in Kambia to identify possible skills to be incorporated into the adult literacy curriculum.

13. FAWE has established two primary schools for displaced and other disadvantaged girls in Freetown and Makeni, and two skills training and development centres for pregnant/girl-mothers in Grafton –Freetown and Makeni. The centre in Grafton started with 120 beneficiaries. The primary school for girls in Freetown had 350 on roll while that of Makeni had 370. The primary school for girls at Fort street has seen through two sets of 21 and 24 girls to Junior Secondary Schools after being successful at the National Primary School Examinations in 1996 and 1997 respectively. In Makeni, the FAWE primary school has now gone up to class 4.

14. FAWE also runs adult literacy classes for elderly women at Grafton displaced camp and 120 learners were registered in the adult literacy classes. In the skills training and development centres, Basic Literacy and Health Education, community studies, tailoring, food processing, agriculture, soap making, building trade and introduction to auto mechanics are taught.

15. FAWE operates a scholarship programme for poor and needy girls in educational institutions throughout the country. The scheme is funded by members of the local Chapter annually. In 1996/97 Academic Year 28 girls in primary, secondary and technical/vocational institutions benefited from the scholarship scheme. In 1998/99 Academic Year 41 girls in Junior Secondary Schools and 1 Female Student from a tertiary institution benefited from the same scheme. The Education and Research/Documentation Unit in the FAWE Secretariat monitors and makes follow-up on the performance of beneficiaries.

16. FAWE has been organizing sensitization programmes to increase awareness for access, participation and retention of girls in Education. The sensitization song “Send Your Girl Child to School” from FAWE headquarters in Nairobi has been
adapted by FAWE – Sierra Leone Chapter into four Sierra Leonean Languages – Mende, Themne, Limba and Krio. The adaptation song is available on audio cassettes and these are also aired on the National Radio and Television from time to time.

17. To encourage girls to participate in Mathematics, Science and Technology (SMT), FAWE, has organized the Agathe Qwilingiyimana Awards in 1997 and 1998. This award also recognizes innovations by females in Mathematics, Science and Technology that can be replicated in other areas. Between September and November 1998, the FAWE – Sierra Leone ran classes in English Language, Mathematics and Biology for disadvantaged girls who were resisting, their West African School Certificate/General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level Examinations (WAEC) in December 1998.

18. During the interregnum from 1997 to 1998, FAWE in collaboration with UNDP organized schools for Sierra Leonean Refugee Youths in Conakry in the Republic of Guinea. This programme benefited 4,500 Sierra Leonean Youths and Children, of which 2,342 were girls. Additionally, during the period FAWE developed seven training programmes on different subject areas such as Trauma Counseling, Peace Education, Physical and Health Education, Trauma and Self-Expression, Mathematics and English Language and French for teaching children in conflict situations.

19. During the period 1960 to date the YWCA- Sierra Leone instituted a programme of intensive education to help girls who drop out from primary schools. The main objective is to equip such girls with skills either for self-employment or to increase their job opportunities.

20. The YWCA also runs a continuing education programme for girls who drop out from secondary schools for reasons ranging from repeated failure, pregnancy and lack of finance. These are meant to motivate such students to resume their academic work and to provide remedial education.

21. Between 1993 and 1996, the YWCA assisted 650 displaced primary school children in Freetown to see them through primary education. The Association paid school fees, provided uniform, books, pencils sponsored by the World YWCA and Third World Group.

22. The YWCA also runs a three year vocational training programme for students who opt for vocational training. The programme consists of a foundation year and two years of specialization in commercial studies, home management and clothing and textiles.

23. The Social Action and Poverty Alleviation (SAPA) programme is supporting the reconstruction and rehabilitation of primary schools and vocational institutions and the provision of basic furniture and pedagogical materials.
23. The Social Action and Poverty Alleviation (SAPA) programme is supporting the reconstruction and rehabilitation of primary schools and vocational institutions and the provision of basic furniture and pedagogical materials.

24. The Gender Research and Documentation Department has been established in the University to collect and analyse information and document for dissemination.

25. The Partners in Adult Education Women’s Commission (PWC) coordinates Partners women’s groups in adult literacy and skills development, and loan scheme management. It also provides training for capacity building and co-operative education.

(See Annex IV)
PART IV

General Constraints

The general constraints to the improvement of the women’s lot in relation to the critical areas identified are the following:

1. Lack of peace and stability both at national and the sub-regional levels.

2. Deterioration in political, social, economical and other spheres which have impacted negatively on the quality of life, especially women.

3. Breakdown of the physical and social infrastructure.

4. Massive migration of professionals and other categories of the population from the country as a result of the nine years of conflict.

5. Use of educational institutions as displaced camps nation-wide which has led to the malfunctioning of these institutions.

6. Lack of donor confidence for supporting existing programmes and projects has led to dwindling donor funding to implement programmes and projects in the various priority areas.

7. Lack of effective and adequate support to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs for effective monitoring and supervision for the integration of women’s concern into government policies and plans.

8. Destruction of available resources by combatants during the war.

9. Lack of entrepreneurial skills by some recipients of revolving loans and micro-credit to establish their own business.

10. Ineffective co-ordinating mechanisms of NGO activities nation-wide.

11. “Lack of gender policy”.

12. Inadequate data collection and information on the twelve (12) critical areas disaggregated by sex.

13. Lack of proper gender management systems at all levels.

14. The pluralistic judicial system governing family law and customary practices relating to women.

15. The plundering and slowing down effect of the war on the programmes generally
What Remains To Be Done

In as much some progress has been made, a lot more needs to be done. The following areas therefore need urgent attention.

1. Since the signing of the Lome Peace Agreement and cessation of hostilities there has been a marked improvement in the security situations. Women therefore need to lobby and advocate the parties to the agreement for the release of women and children still in captivity.

2. Significant efforts should be made for women to participate in the consolidation of the peace agreement.

3. Sierra Leone women need to lobby and advocate to their women folk at regional and sub-regional levels for the peace agreement to hold.

4. Rebuild donor confidence for support to the Government and various NGOs and CBOs at national, regional and district levels.

5. Decentralisation process be accelerated to enhance speedy and effective participation and implementation of programmes at the grassroots level.

6. Rehabilitation, reconstruction and resettlement programmes be commenced in earnest for IDPs to return to their respective areas of origin.

7. There is need to revisit the laws of Sierra Leone to reflect women’s concerns in line with global issues.

8. Proper mechanisms to be put in place for implementation of programmes and projects.

9. Encourage Sierra Leoneans in neighbouring countries to return in order to participate in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of their war torn country

10. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration should be the focal point for peace to be consolidated.

11. Women should lobby and advocate for an increase in women’s participation and representation in Parliament through affirmative action and at the level of decision making.
PART VI

Strategic Actions

The following strategic actions should be taken at:

1. National Level:

1.1 Consolidation of the peace agreement, by both parties.

1.2 Deployment of a neutral monitoring group for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

1.3 Adherence to all the provisions and articles of the Agreement and the Implementation of the peace agreement by all concerned parties.

1.4 More consideration should be given to women’s involvement in all structures as outlined in the Lome agreement.

1.5 Embark on a mass peace and reconciliation drive to enhance sustainable peace and the extension of the stay of ECOMOG in the country to monitor implementation of the Peace Agreement.

2. Sub-Regional Level:

2.1 The Chairman of ECOWAS, together with signatories and facilitators should endeavour to consolidate the Lome Peace Agreement.

2.2 The women folk in the sub-region should join their counterparts in Sierra Leone to say no to war, arms and ammunition.

3. Regional Level

3.1 The Organisation of Africa Unity (OAU) should lobby and advocate for support to the implementation of the Peace Agreement.

4 International Level:

4.1 The UN Nations – Security Council should solicit support both financial and logistic to speed up the implementation of the Peace Agreement.

4.2 Donor countries must endeavour to mobilize the required resources in order to achieve successful implementation of the Peace Agreement and to rebuild the country.
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**ANNEX I: PEACE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
<th>ACTORS</th>
<th>BENCHMARKS</th>
<th>RESOURCES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>To mobilize women nation-wide to</td>
<td>Various organisations/groups and civil society groups participated in the Lome talks.</td>
<td>Increased women's participation in the peace process at various levels</td>
<td>GOSL/UN Agencies, NCDHR, CCP, NCDRR</td>
<td>Nation-wide at all levels</td>
<td>UNDP's support to the awareness raising project under NCDHR, CCP, DFID/WWB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>To organise and conduct</td>
<td>Community based trauma healing and reconciliation training were conducted.</td>
<td>Increased percentage of women enlisted in the army</td>
<td>UNOMSIL, ECOMOG, NGO's - Women's Movement, MIBTC, MOYES, SLMWA</td>
<td>Over 120 young girls released from rebel held territory</td>
<td>NCDRR, EU, UNICEF</td>
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<td></td>
<td>nation-wide sensitization seminars and awareness raising workshops designed to provide information, and explain concepts, processes and impart knowledge and skills for stimulating positive behavioural/attitudinal change in the society with the acting involvement of women</td>
<td>YWCA and Women's Forum conducted various activities on peace issues</td>
<td>Public awareness raised on the Lome Peace Agreement and women in conflict resolution</td>
<td>Women's Movement for Peace Campaign for good Governance, SLMWA, MCSL, FOM WASAL, CSSL</td>
<td>Peace Accord signed on 7th July, 1999</td>
<td>UNOMSIL, NCDHR, OAU</td>
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<tr>
<td>b)</td>
<td>To organise and conduct awareness raising workshops designed to</td>
<td>Recruitment into the new army included women from various parts of the country</td>
<td>The CCP and other institutions strengthened and reactivated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Government, local contributions</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reactivating the CCP as stipulated in the Lome Peace Agreement</td>
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<td>Community based organisations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>developed and produced materials including trading models on positive behaviour, peace and human rights issues, with the active participation of women To produce support and assistance/war affected population groups particularly displaced and abducted persons targeting on women and children</td>
<td>National Consultative Forum at regional and national level Through the awareness raising programme a mass sensitization drive is carried out in collaboration with women’s groups/NGOs at regional and national levels on the articles of the Lome Peace Agreement</td>
<td>to consolidate peace</td>
<td>Concluded reporting obligation on the convention on the Rights of the child. Child protection activities stepped up</td>
<td>ICRCSL</td>
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<td>World Bank, OAU, UNHCR, ADB, EU, Bread for the World, EZE</td>
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## ANNEX II: POVERTY

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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>ACTORS</th>
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<th>BENCHMARKS</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>To facilitate and increase women’s/girls access to functional/basic education, training and productive inputs</td>
<td>Organise and conduct sensitisation workshop at various levels on issues of poverty</td>
<td>Increase in women’s beneficiaries for micro-credit activities</td>
<td>UN Agencies</td>
<td>90% women directly contracted and trained.</td>
<td>Support from ADB, WB, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, DFID, FAO, WEP, NGOs – Action Aid, Cause Canada</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>To build and strengthen women’s livelihood, skills and promote expansion through diversification and increased catalyzation of their small scale businesses</td>
<td>Conduct a series of thematic studies in order to come up with a National Action Plan</td>
<td>Increased awareness on poverty profile and other issues</td>
<td>UNFPA, NCRRR, NCDRR, NCDHR, SLANGO, Government Co-operatives, SLEDIC, ECOWAS Unit, MITSE, MIBTC, MOSWGC, NGOs – NOW, MIBTC, MOWLEP, Labour Division, MOSWGC, NGOs, ZONTA, SLANGO</td>
<td>5 – 10 groups received loans for small scale business</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>a) Advocate and lobby for provision of conditions/situations which enable women to effectively utilise available resources and/or opportunities</td>
<td>National Action Plan on Poverty Alleviation prepared</td>
<td></td>
<td>NAP prepared and submitted for endorsement by Parliament.</td>
<td>Displaced women in various camps in Freetown</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SAPA Division established to provide resources to women’s group for micro-businesses.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) Advocate and lobby for increased wages and provision of day-care facilities in/near places of work</td>
<td>Training was carried out in various communities on how to improve small-scale business management carried out</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total of 846 displaced women in 45 groups from over five provincial district registered from</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**ACTORS**
- UN Agencies
- GOsl in SPA, MOFDEP
- NCRRR
- NCDRR
- NCDHR
- SLANGO
- Government Co-operatives
- SLEDIC
- ECOWAS Unit
- MITSE
- MIBTC
- MOSWGC
- NGOs – NOW
- MCSL, ZONTA, SLANGO

**BENCHMARKS**
- 90% women directly contracted and trained.
- 5 – 10 groups received loans for small scale business
- NAP prepared and submitted for endorsement by Parliament.
- Displaced women in various camps in Freetown

**RESOURCES**
- Support from ADB, WB, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, DFID, FAO, WEP, NGOs – Action Aid, Cause Canada
- Government, NGOs, local contributions
women's programmes
  i.e.
  a. Agricultural production
  b. Gara and dye
  c. Petty trading

In collaboration with SLANGO organised and conducted a workshop on business and finances.

Various NGOs carried out micro-credit activities in two regions and Western Area.
Sierra Leone participated in the 2nd ECOWAS Trade Fair held in Accra, Ghana.

Women entrepreneurs participated in the African Trade Fair in Accra.

Over a hundred women's groups have benefited from the schemes.

Bank of Sierra Leone, World Bank, ADB, Cooperative Bank, Women's groups, SAPA
## ANNEX III: HEALTH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
<th>ACTORS</th>
<th>BENCHMARKS</th>
<th>RESOURCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Increased human’s access throughout the live circle to appropriate, affordable and quality health care, and information and related services.</td>
<td>Relative expenditure for social sector and gaps identified for advocacy Policy and action plan and new policies and plans projected</td>
<td>Percentage of population with access to health care facilities, to adequate safe drinking water at maximum distance of 150m from household.</td>
<td>UN Agencies</td>
<td>Establishment of satellite clinics</td>
<td>World Bank, Government, NGOs, Local contributions, Diplomatic Missions, Personal contributions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Strengthen preventive programmes that promote women’s health, undertake gender sensitive initiatives that address sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, reproduction and adolescent health issues, and safe motherhood</td>
<td>Community participation in health from six selected districts. Regular monitoring and supervision carried out and feedback into central and district management</td>
<td>Percentage of women participating in the programme and how many are actually benefiting. Number of communities with health care facilities Coverage for polio immunization at the end of 1999 NIDS.</td>
<td>INGOs</td>
<td>Nation-wide immunisation against polio</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Promote good health of people, especially women and children through sanitation</td>
<td>Provide funds for the protection of 2000 traditional water sources Organised and conducted health education programme on various health related topics such as: -malaria -healthy environment</td>
<td>Number of complicated pregnancies referred to CHC and to the district hospital by TBAs/MCHAs. Number of maternal and neonatal deaths registered in the pilot districts Percentage of vulnerable</td>
<td>MOH, MOYES, MOBTC, MOFDEP, MOWCLEP, MOSWGCA</td>
<td>Situation Analysis of women and children in Sierra Leone, 1999</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproductive health and related issues</td>
<td>Support social mobilization activities 2,500 benefited from stores and drying floors for farmers and 24 sanitary, improved water wells and VIP latrines provided in the Remiya Chiefdom in the Loko District</td>
<td>Families enrolled in the HFS able to meet their basic food requirements Attendance rate to ANC in 300 supported PHUs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diseases control and management</td>
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</table>

MCSL FOMWASAL
## ANNEX IV: EDUCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
<th>ACTORS</th>
<th>BENCHMARKS</th>
<th>RESOURCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>To reduce female illiteracy through Non-Formal Education programmes</td>
<td>Baseline survey in selected communities. Recruitment and training of facilitators. Literacy materials produced. Commencement of literacy classes. Monitoring and supervision of literacy classes. Mass literacy campaigns. Income generating skills training were conducted in gara tie and dye, bakery, soap making, food processing and preservation, sewing and needlework.</td>
<td>Educational needs identified for women/girl child. Number of trained facilitators Adequate supply of teaching learning materials. Enrolment rate increased from 40 - 60% Retention rate increased from 70 - 90% Adequate supply of teaching/learning materials</td>
<td>GOSL MOYES UN AGENCIES UNICEF UNESCO UNDP</td>
<td>Increased literacy centres Coping skills centres established</td>
<td>Government of Sierra Leone, NGOs, International Organisations e.g. UNESCO, UNICEF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>To promote enrolment and achievements of both sexes, especially girls in education at all levels</td>
<td>Training in appropriate technology</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>To improve girls and women's access to and</td>
<td>Peace education and trauma healing were conducted in</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### ACTORS
- GOSL
- MOYES
- UN AGENCIES
- UNICEF
- UNESCO
- UNDP
- EU
- WB
- NGOs
- PEA
- SLADEA
- CCF
- CRS
- Action Aid-SL
- World Vision
- PWC
- MCSL
- YWCA
- NOW
- FOMWASAL

### RESOURCES
- Government of Sierra Leone
- NGOs
- International Organisations e.g. UNESCO, UNICEF

### BENCHMARKS
- Increased literacy centres
- Coping skills centres established

### RESOURCES
- National Education Action Plan
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievement in science and technology and continuing education</th>
<th>To ensure the provision of quality education in all primary schools.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women trained on capacity building and leadership roles</td>
<td>selected communities in the Western Area.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Functional adult literacy training combined with vocational survival skills and employment</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Unemployed displaced war widows trained</td>
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<td>Leadership training held in Kenema for women leaders</td>
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<td>A three-day material review and development workshop held.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Women trained on the role of women in the church and society</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Trained inspectors of schools in monitoring and supervision</td>
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<td></td>
<td>In-service training in peace education conducted</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Provided refresher training for 152 serving facilitators for adult literacy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provided refresher training for 340 NFPE serving facilitators</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FAWE</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Number of monitoring and supervisory visits</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Improved retention of facilitators and learners</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Number of data banks established</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Availability of standardized teaching/learning materials</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Increased number of facilitators trained.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Reactivate and establish NFPE communities and national and regional levels. Organise NFPE co-ordinating meetings.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FAWE</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Decentralisation of the educational system</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Guidance and counselling unit strengthened</td>
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<td>ADB, World Bank, EU</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Technical and vocational centres upgraded</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identified and registered adult literacy centres</td>
<td>Provided teaching and learning materials for adult literacy learners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provided teaching and learning materials for 50,000 NFPE and 30 adult literacy learners</td>
<td>Conducted monthly sensitization meetings in 180 communities</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of coordinating meetings held</th>
<th>Number of teachers and principals of both sexes responding to workshop invitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of teachers and principals of both sexes responding to workshop invitation</td>
<td>Number of pupils (boys/girls) who would go to read science/math/engineering/technical subjects at tertiary levels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Basic Education programmes intensified</th>
<th>Free Primary Education from levels 1 - 3</th>
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