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Search HAR Printer friendly

- HAR 2008 home
- <u>Foreword</u>
- <u>Emergency funding</u>
- <u>Tsunami response: Lessons learned</u>
- <u>Asia and the Pacific</u>
- Central and Eastern Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States
- Eastern and Southern Africa
- Middle East and North Africa
- The Americas and Caribbean
- West and Central Africa
 - o <u>Central African Republic</u>
 - o <u>Chad</u>
 - o <u>Congo</u>
 - <u>Côte d'Ivoire</u>
 - o <u>DR Congo</u>
 - o <u>Guinea</u>
 - o Guinea Bissau
 - o <u>Liberia</u>
 - o <u>Mauritania</u>
 - o <u>Niger</u>
- <u>Video</u>
- <u>Photo essay</u>
- PDF download centre
- Search HAR
- UNICEF home

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WCARO LIBERIA: EMERGENCY SUMMARY

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Comedian George 'Boutini' entertains children at the UNICEF-supported Child Rights Advocacy Club in Monrovia, Liberia's capital. Entrenched poverty and a ruined infrastructure slow recovery from decades of war.

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

The one and half decade-long conflict in Liberia has gravely worsened the wellbeing and livelihood of children and women throughout the country. Some 200,000 children suffer from some form of acute malnutrition. Less than 15 per cent of children will reach their first birthday and one out of four mothers dies due to childbirth. Less than 15 per cent of the population has access to basic health services, and preventable or easily treated diseases remain the main killers of Liberia's children and women. Only 32 per cent of the entire population has access to potable water.

PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2008

UNICEF is the lead agency for water, sanitation & hygiene and co-chairs consultative groups on education and health & nutrition. UNICEF-supported programmes are expected to reach at least 1.2 million children and 600,000

women in 2008.

Health and nutrition: UNICEF will procure and distribute essential emergency drugs and equipment to 27 health centres; distribute 150,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets to 30,000 households; support three therapeutic feeding centres; and train 200 health staff for the treatment of severe malnutrition.

Water, sanitation and hygiene: To provide 150,000 displaced and other persons with safe water and sanitation facilities, UNICEF will construct/rehabilitate wells and sanitary facilities; train 15 local water authority management teams in county/city water and sanitation assessments; and promote hygiene education and hygiene awareness programmes in 200 schools and catchment communities.

Education and gender equality: UNICEF will provide 450,000 war-affected schoolchildren with basic school materials and recreational kits; train 300 primary school teachers; rehabilitate schools and construct 10 temporary school/classroom structures to accommodate 10,000 primary schoolchildren.

Child protection: UNICEF will provide reintegration opportunities to 10,000 waraffected children; train 500 teachers and health staff on response to violence/ abuse; and support the prevention, identification, documentation, tracing, care and reunification of an estimated 500 separated children.

Summary of UNICEF financial needs for 2008	
Sector	US\$
Child survival (health, nutrition, water and environmental sanitation)	9,985,000
Education and gender equality	4,080,000
Child protection	4,105,000
Total*	18,170,000

* The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7 per cent. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

• Humanitarian action updates for Liberia

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