

**LIBERIA  
MULTIPLE-INDICATOR  
CLUSTER SURVEY  
1995**

**FINAL  
REPORT**

**Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs  
Ministry of Health and Social Welfare  
United Nation Children's Fund**

**August 1995**

# FOREWORD

In 1990, at the World Summit for Children, Heads of State and Governments from countries around the world pledged themselves to a Declaration and Plan of Action for Children. The Summit set clear goals to be achieved by the end of the century. Based on the commitments, many countries, including Liberia, have developed their own National Programme of Action.

The Mid-Decade Goals emerged from the first two years of experience, beginning in 1990. In 1992 the International Conference on Assistance to African Children adopted a set of 13 Mid-Decade Goals which have come to form the milestone that all countries need to achieve by the end of 1995 as stepping stones to the goals for the year 2000.

In Liberia, due to the emergency, the programme focus was on immediate life saving interventions while at the same time supporting rehabilitation efforts. Though emergency in nature, the various programmes implemented by different agencies, and above all the individual efforts made by Liberian families, have a long lasting impact on the situation of children.

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) is designed to collect data on the well being of children. It helps to look into our progress towards the achievement of the Mid-Decade goals and to estimate the impact of our programmes. The data also provide some information which can be useful for planning purposes. Unfortunately, the information provided in this report covers only three counties (Montserrado, part of Margibi, and Bassa) and does not claim, therefore, to reflect the situation of the whole country. However, about 60 percent of the population resides in this area. We plan to conduct a similar survey in 1996 covering, hopefully, a larger part of the country and population.

It is our hope that this report will lead to a better understanding of the situation of children in Liberia and fill part of the enormous information gap, so helping all of us to identify areas where we can assist the survival and development of children.

Alan Everest  
Representative  
UNICEF/Liberia

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Liberia Multiple-Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) was conducted as part of the worldwide survey designed to measure progress toward the Mid-Decade Goals. The survey was carried out for the first time in Liberia and it is expected to be conducted each year in order to establish data bank covering health, education, water and sanitation and mortality of children of Liberia. To be specific, the main objectives of the MICS are:

- a) to produce a body of data for monitoring progress toward Mid-Decade Goals of the World Summit for Children;
- b) to narrow the information gaps for specific areas critical to the survival and development of each Liberian child;
- c) to add to the international body of data which could be used for comparative purposes;
- d) to produce body of data which could be useful to policy makers, for public advocacy and socio-economic planning for the survival and development of children in Liberia; and
- e) to build the institutional capacity of the Bureau of Statistics of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs and to enhance the ability of Liberian staff to conduct MICS in the future.

At the time of the survey, the country was going through a civil crisis which compelled the survey organizers to restrict the field activities in those areas that were under the effective control of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Peace Keeping and Monitoring Force (ECOMOG). These areas, included among others, Montserrado County; Harbel and its environs, Margibi County; and Buchanan City and its environs, Grand Bassa County. This implies that only part of the country was covered by the survey. It is our hope, however, that the 1996 MICS will cover the entire country.

Fieldwork for the Liberia Multiple-Indicator Cluster Survey was conducted from 20 March to 3 April 1995 by the personnel of the Ministries of Planning and Economic Affairs and Health and Social Welfare. Financial Assistance was provided by UNICEF while technical and administrative services for the survey were jointly provided by Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and UNICEF.

The successful implementation of the MICS would not have been possible without relentless effort and dedication of the Ministries of Planning and Economic Affairs and Health and Social Welfare, UNICEF and others who made the successful implementation of this program possible. It is in this light, I wish to extend my gratitude to the following individuals and institutions for their immense contribution to the success of the MICS Project;

- a) the UNICEF Resident Representative and his able staff who provided both financial technical and administrative assistance;
- b) the Minister of Health and Social Welfare and his dedicated personnel who were seconded to the project;
- c) the Minister of Planning and Economic Affairs and her able staff of the Bureau of Statistics who were seconded to the project;
- d) the Minister of Internal Affairs and Officials of the counties where the survey was conducted for their kind support and cooperation with the field staff during the MIU fieldwork;
- e) the High Command of ECOMOG and ECOMOG Officers in the counties where the MIU was implemented for their cooperation and support;
- f) the press and electronic media, particularly ELWA and LBS, for the vital role they play by promoting and educating the public about the objectives and importance of the survey and
- g) finally, all those who in one way or another contributed to the successful implementation of this very important survey.

Amelia Ward, Minister  
Ministry of Planning and  
Economic Affairs

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