



**Convention on the
Rights of the Child**

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Consideration of reports of States parties

**List of issues concerning additional and updated information
related to the combined second, third and fourth periodic
reports of Liberia (CRC/C/LBR/2-4)**

Addendum

Written replies of Liberia*

* In accordance with the information transmitted to States parties regarding the processing of their reports, the present document was not edited.

Introduction

1. The basic facts of Liberia's civil war are known to many: fourteen years of conflict, widespread use of child combatants and sexual violence, education and health systems broken, and an infrastructure left in ruins. For an entire generation, the war prevented Liberia's children from realizing their full potential. Despite this difficult context, with the end of the war and intensive development efforts, much has been achieved for Liberian women, children, and youth in the past six years. Peace has been consolidated and the physical and social landscape transformed. Most indicators for child survival, and access to basic services including health and nutrition interventions, safe water and sanitation, and education, have radically improved.
2. In the past six years, Liberia has cast off its external debt, reaching the Highly Indebted Poor Countries completion point in 2010. It has completed its 2008-2011 poverty reduction strategy and is nearing finalization of a new national vision document as well as a medium term growth strategy, the Agenda for Transformation Through Action (ATTA) 2012-2017.
3. A new national children's law is in place, marking a firm commitment on behalf of the Government to domestication of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in both statute and budgetary allocations. Sector policies and plans have been adopted in several key child-focused areas including education, social welfare, and health. Other guiding documents are under development, including the national youth policy and the nation's first social protection policy. While there is still much work to be done, there is no doubt that the future of Liberia's children is brighter than it has been in generations.

Part I

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 1, of the list of issues (CRC/C/LBR/Q/2-4)

4. The Children's Law was introduced in the House of Representatives and passed by the House on 2008. On September 15, 2011, it passed the Senate. The Children's Law was launched by Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on 4 February 2012 and is now in effect. The law is intended to domesticate the core principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the principles of the best interest of the child, non-discrimination, and participation.
5. While the Constitution of Liberia (art. 65) provides that "the courts shall apply both statutory and customary laws in accordance with the standards enacted by the Legislature" the process of harmonizing both legal systems and codifying the customary law has not yet begun, thus statutory laws, in this case, Children's Law continues to remain supreme to the customary law in regard to its application in the courts.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 2, of the list of issues

6. The Ministry of Gender and Development has started consultations with all concerned ministries regarding development of a National Plan of Action that covers the Convention as well as the newly adopted Children's Law. The National Plan of Action will be aligned with the draft Poverty Reduction Strategy II, in which child protection is specifically addressed as a cross-cutting issue and other children's issues including education, health, and social protection are addressed directly.
7. The Child Protection Network comprising all line ministries, civil society and international organizations, which is coordinated by the Ministry of Gender and

Development, has constituted an inter-agency technical committee. The committee has a mandate for advocating and supporting the development of a National Plan of Action on implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Children's Law. Agencies constituting the technical committee include the Ministries of Labor, Justice, Finance, Gender and Development, Education, Health and Social Welfare, Information, and Internal Affairs. Other committee institutions include the House and Senate Committees on Gender Equity and Child Development, the National Children's Representative Forum and 4 representatives of civil society organizations.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 3, of the list of issues

8. The Children's Protection Division at the Ministry of Gender and Development became operational in 2005 and was upgraded to the status of a Division in 2008. Its role is to ensure the protection of children's rights at national and county levels, advocate for child rights, advise the Government on children's rights, coordinate programmes on child well-being, and monitor child rights violations. Since the last reporting on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Unit has increased from having 13 child welfare officers to 15, covering all 15 counties. The child welfare officers work in close collaboration with the Ministry's county gender officers and all other local officials and community based organizations and groups. The Unit is currently working to promote the implementation of the Children's Law.

9. In addition, this division monitors the implementation and reporting of international conventions and protocols by all agencies and institutions that are responsible for the survival, development, protection and participation of children. To effectively implement its monitoring responsibilities, the division conducts a monthly coordination meeting where members of the Child Protection Network (CPN) meet to discuss matters relevant to the protection of children. Members of the Network are given the opportunity to report and give updates on issues and activities undertaken during that period.

10. The department of Social Welfare of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare has a mandate to ensure the care, protection and wellbeing of disadvantaged children. The processes through which this mandate is implemented include providing subsidies to child welfare institutions, monitoring and enforcing the regulations on alternative care, giving family assistance, and carrying out awareness on family preservation.

11. In 2011, the Department of Social Welfare adopted the national Social Welfare Policy, which outlines the Government's strategy for addressing the basic needs of some of Liberia's most vulnerable families and individuals, including children. It includes an analysis of the sector's current capacity gaps and outlines the vision for meeting them. As a component of the Social Welfare Policy, consultations are currently underway to validate a basic package of social services to be provided by the Government.

12. To avoid overlap of functions and interventions between the Children's Division and the Department of Social Welfare of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, there has been increased coordination and regular information sharing. The coming into force of the Children's Law in 2012 provides an opportunity to consolidate overlapping functions of oversight and monitoring of the situation and well-being of children through the planned establishment of the National Child Well-Being Council, as an independent interagency coordination and oversight mechanism.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 4, of the list of issues

13. Currently no mechanisms are in place to assess the impact of budgetary allocations on children in various sectors.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 5, of the list of issues

14. The Children’s Law enshrines the principle of non-discrimination as a complementary principle to the best interests of the child in the interpretation and implementation of the law, stating that:

“no decision or action shall be taken whose result or likelihood is to discriminate against any child on the basis of sex, family, colour, race, ethnicity, place of origin, language, religion, economic status, parents, or any other status;”

15. The Education Reform Act of 2011 also has a major focus on provision of equal and non-discriminatory access to education. The Ministry of Education is currently leading a process for consultations on policy direction and measures for inclusive education.

16. The Children’s Law contains a full section (Section 4) on the rights of children with disabilities including the right “to enjoy a full and decent life,” special care conducive to full integration and individual development. It also stipulates the duties of the local authorities to seek appropriate support from the central government to assist the families and caregivers of children with disabilities. As a complement to the Children’s Law, an amendment has been proposed to the Penal Code, making discrimination on the basis of the child’s disabilities or ethnicity a felony of second degree.

17. In addition, one of the major steps taken was the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in August 2012.

18. No progress is noted in implementing the recommendation of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on “name and nationality” according to which Liberia was to change article 27 of the Constitution and the Alien and Nationalisation Law, which together restrict the granting of citizenship based on colour or racial origin as the matter has not yet been nationally debated.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 6, of the list of issues

19. While the Women and Children’ Protection units of the Liberian Police were established and have been functioning since 2006, the Children’ Law institutionalized the role and duties of these units to investigate and handle cases of sexual violence, abuse, exploitation, domestic violence, criminal allegations against children, and other cases requiring police protection for any woman or child. Women and Child Protection Units also have a duty of providing and seeking temporary safe places for women or children who have or are in danger of suffering violence, exploitation, or abuse. (See statistics on cases handled by the Women and Children Protection units further in the report, tables Nos. 17 and 18).

20. Despite challenges in terms of limited safe home facilities and services, Women and Children Protection units – in partnership with NGOs – continue providing services to survivors of gender based violence and abuse and exploitation. See below the statistics from two safe homes provided by the local NGO THINK for 2009-2011, which clearly indicates that rape and sexual violence remain the most prevalent crimes against children:

Table No. 1

Cases registered by the police and received by THINK

<i>Case</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>
Missing	2	4	7
Domestic violence	16	8	3

<i>Case</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>
Attempted suicide	1	0	1
Lost and found	8	0	2
Abandoned	2	1	1
Delinquent	38	24	13
In need of parenting	0	17	8
In conflict with the law	30	7	2
Neglect	2	1	3
In need of safety	7	7	9
Forced marriage	1	1	0
Trafficked	1	10	4
Stealing	1	2	2
Runaway	63	42	5
Rape	148	122	52
Gang Rape	3	1	2
Sexual exploitation	0	3	2
Psychosocial counselling	2	3	5
Attempted murder	0	1	0
Total	325	254	121

Source: THINK Records 2009-2011.

21. The Government of Liberia and United Nations agencies including UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, WHO, UNMIL and UN-Women launched a Joint Programme on Gender Based Violence in 2008 to improve coordination on GBV issues. The Joint Programme has been extended until 2013, while at the same time the Government of Liberia has revised and extended the National Action Plan for Prevention and Management of Gender Based Violence, initially launched in 2006, until 2015. Some of the Joint Programme achievements to date include development of targeted manuals and capacity building of relevant staff in psychosocial support and GBV area, creation of network for men against GBV and large scale campaigns against sexual abuse and exploitation, provision of services to children and women victims of gender based violence and establishment of GBV case tracking database.

22. Some of the major institutional reforms detailed in part II were also crucial in addressing the prevailing incidence of gender-based violence, mainly establishment and expansion of the Sexual and Gender Based Violence Crimes Unit (SGBVU) by the Ministry of Justice and the Criminal Court “E” with exclusive original jurisdiction over the crimes of rape, gang rape, aggravated involuntary sodomy, corruption of minors, sexual abuse of wards and sexual assault.

23. The Children’s Law has introduced provisions on mandatory reporting of abuse of children. Complementary amendments to the Penal Code have been proposed which would make it a second degree misdemeanour for parents, caregivers, teachers, guardian nurses or any other service providers who fail to report a case of child abuse or neglect. Additional amendments to the Penal Code would also establish sanctions in the form of first degree misdemeanour for parents, guardians, or other caregivers who knowingly endanger the

child's welfare by violating the legal duty of care, protection or support or otherwise neglect, ill-treat, or exploit the child entrusted to their care.

24. (Guidelines for operation and management of Safe Houses for Survivors of Gender Based Violence have been developed and endorsed by the National GBV Task Force under the guidance of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

25. Proposed amendments to the Penal Code would provide sanctions of third degree felony for subjecting a child to pornography or media exposure of sexual or violent nature, as well as distribution of child pornography.

26. While corporal punishment and violence against children in schools and families remain widely practiced, the Children's Law now requires every parent to

“respect the child's dignity and refrain from administering domestic discipline that violates such dignity or adversely affects the psychosocial or physical well-being of any child living in the household”

The efficacy of this portion of the law will require significant public outreach and investment in parental skills programmes.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 7, of the list of issues

27. Following the launch of regulations on alternative care standards by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in 2010, a National Independent Accreditation Committee (IAC) was established to oversee and guide the selection of credible institutions providing alternative care services for vulnerable children. IAC membership includes the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare as well as the Ministries of Gender and Development, Justice, Education, Labor and civil society organizations.

28. Of the 88 alternative care institutions that remain in the country, all have applied for accreditation. The IAC has assessed 35 institutions and accredited ten, while the rest were instructed to undertake relevant measures to comply with the standards.

29. Since September 2009, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, with support from UNICEF and USAID, has been implementing a programme aimed at the deinstitutionalization of children and promotion of family care.

30. 3,637 (1,918 boys and 1,719 girls) are currently living in 88 functional orphanages. This is a decrease from 5,000 children estimated to be in institutional care by the June 2008 inter-agency monitoring report. Since 2009, 637 non-orphans (366 boys and 271 girls) living in orphanages have been reunified with families or relatives. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare is conducting follow up visits to confirm that children are back and living with their families. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, with support from UNICEF, has also established a National Management Information System data base for alternative care.

31. The Children's Law provides a clear framework and standards for alternative care, institutionalization and foster care arrangements and regulations, in line with the principles of the best interest of the child and preference for family care. The Children's Law establishes the Government's obligation to conduct semi-annual periodic reviews of child placements.

32. The Government has started discussions on designing and piloting a foster care system, as well as studying the existing informal foster care systems and arrangements.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 8, of the list of issues

33. To regulate domestic and intercountry adoption, the draft Adoption Bill was finalized and submitted to the House of Representatives in 2012. The proposed legislation, if passed, will update and amend the relevant sections of the Domestic Relations Law with respect to adoption in compliance with the international standards. While Liberia has not yet ratified the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption, the draft law is compliant with key Hague principles and pays special attention to issues of informed consent, which has presented serious problems in the past.

34. The moratorium on inter-country adoption remains in effect. The President has indicated that it will remain until the adoption legislation is adopted and an enabling framework is established for regulating inter-country adoption. Since the suspension went into effect, the Liberian Government has formed an Ad-hoc Central Adoption Authority, which provides oversight and monitors adoption cases. The Ad-Hoc Adoption Authority established in 2009 replaced the Commission on Adoption established in 2008.

35. An adoption unit has been established at the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare with a coordinator and three social workers trained to conduct case investigations prior to submission of cases to the Ad-Hoc Central Adoption Authority.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 9, of the list of issues

36. Liberia has made noticeable progress in reducing child mortality, passing from 227 deaths per 1,000 living births in 1990 to 103 deaths for 1,000 living births in 2010.

37. Maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) was successfully eliminated. MNT elimination activities took place in Liberia over three years (2006 to 2008) and a total of 850,000 women of child bearing age were targeted in this endeavour. No polio cases were reported in 2011. The immunization coverage increased to 77 per cent in 2011 compared to 39 per cent (as measured by DTP3/Penta3) in 2007 and measles and pentavalent coverage was consistently maintained above 90 per cent.

38. RED (Reaching Every District) and REPW (Reaching Every Pregnant Woman) approaches were launched to address child morbidity and mortality in all the 15 counties and ensure equitable access to and delivery of basic health services for all children and women in Liberia. A road map for accelerating the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality was developed in order to meet the MDGs 4 and 5 by 2015.

39. Ministry of Health and Social Welfare has developed the National Child Survival Strategy to serve as a major component to individual-oriented clinical services for implementation of the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS), now expanded to the Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS).

40. (e) Integrated Community Case Management (ICCM) was initiated to improve case management of childhood diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea and ARI at the community level. 80 per cent of primary health care facilities in 4 of the most vulnerable counties in the South East (Sinoe, Grand Kru, Maryland and Gbarpolu) are practicing ICCM outreach activities.

41. Delivery of integrated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) package in rural areas, which started in 2009, was refined to target the under-served southeast region including WASH in schools and Community Led Total Sanitation activities throughout Liberia. Bore holes and drinking water structures have also been developed across the country to meet the needs of the population.

42. The Liberia WASH compact, which was designed by the Government of Liberia in collaboration with Sanitation for All (SWA), was officially approved and signed by the President in May 2011. The Government took the initiative to accelerate the delivery of water, sanitation and hygiene services in the country, joining the SWA global partnership, an international platform aimed at achieving universal and sustainable access to sanitation and drinking water. The WASH sector also developed a Sector Strategic Plan for 2012 to 2017.
43. Malnutrition and stunting are addressed in various enabling policies and plans. The new Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS) focuses on reducing stunting from 42 per cent to 30 per cent by 2017 with specific emphasis on children below two years. In line with EPHS, an Essential Nutrition Action Package is being rolled out, which involves training of health workers and community volunteers on critical nutrition interventions coupled with social mobilization activities.
44. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, together with UNFPA, UN Women and other partners, has worked to improve access to and increase awareness about reproductive health. Key achievements include countrywide trainings of medical staff on clinical management of rape cases and construction of 12 clinics outside the capital area equipped with rape management facilities and PEP/rape kits.
45. Special emphasis has been made to strengthen the institutional framework at the central and county level to ensure adequate capacity to plan, implement and monitor nutrition interventions by the Government. In April 2011, Nutrition Division was established in the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. Based on EPHS, a two year central nutrition operation plan has been developed and all 15 counties now have nutrition specific plans. Most of the counties also have designated nutrition supervisors to manage nutrition interventions in 2012.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 10, of the list of issues

46. The Children's Law provides that:
- “No person or society shall subject a child to any of the following practices:-
- (a) Marrying any person when she or he is still under the age of 18;
 - (b) Betrothing a child into marriage or a promise for marriage;
 - (c) Giving over a child to work either as a means of satisfying obligations on the part of the parent regardless of whether or not the work is harmful, hazardous or indecent;
 - (d) Any unnecessary or uncultured practice that may inflict physical, psychosocial, or emotional pain to the child or otherwise violate or endanger her or his bodily integrity, life, health, dignity, education, welfare, or holistic development.”
47. Related amendments have been proposed to the Penal Code which would make any of the above activities a second degree felony.
48. While female genital mutilation is not explicitly mentioned, the strong language above provides grounds for continued measures to address the issue.
49. In 2010, the Ministry of Gender and Development was commissioned by the President's office to verify the operational schedule of the Sande Society [traditional initiation and education society for girls and women] in the counties that report a high prevalence of Sande schools. The study's findings showed that, in more than half of observed cases, the Sande schools were held during the regular school period and that a

significant number of girls dropped out of school after Sande school (37.3 per cent drop out) training.

50. Based on the findings, the Ministry of Gender and Development recommended that in order to remove barriers for girl's education, licenses for Sande school operations be issued when the formal school year comes to an end. It also recommended fixing a minimum age for entry into the Sande schools and giving the girls an option to decide, while at the same time discouraging forced initiations by recommending the imposition of heavy fines. Following the launch of the above report, the Ministry of Gender and Development established a coordination mechanism with the Ministry of Internal Affairs to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations.

51. The Government and partners have also been engaged in activities aimed at increased public awareness and knowledge about the dangers and consequences of harmful traditional practices. Examples include the Joint United Nations and Government of Liberia Programme launched in 2011 on Adolescent Development, in Montserrado and Gbarpolu counties, targeting young adolescent girls to empower them with life skills, services, information and education to make informed decisions about their future. The communication component of the programme addresses the negative effects of gender based violence, HIV and female genital cutting.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 11, of the list of issues

52. The Children's Law, Section 9, stipulates the right of a child with respect to education and governmental duties to meet this right. The Section addresses the Government's duty to encourage school attendance in general and to take special measures to ensure equal and equitable access for female, gifted, and disadvantaged children. Under the Children's Law, special protection and focus are afforded to pregnant girls and children with disabilities.

53. The Education Reform Act was adopted in 2011. It governs and regulates the educational system and the delivery and management of the system to ensure the provision of quality education to all citizens, promote equal access to educational opportunities and decentralize the educational system. In order to support the budgetary needs of the interventions for the Ministry of Education, the Act provides for allocation of 60 per cent of the signatory fees coming from mining companies to the Ministry of Education.

54. An Education Sector Policy (ESP) has been developed and is currently pending consultations with the education actors at county level. The plan has also seen the incorporation of Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) training as part of the teacher training curriculum in Rural Teacher Training institutions (RTTI) and the implementation of the ECCD comprehensive policy (2011). Through the ESP, 3 RTTI have been rehabilitated and furnished. The ESP (2009) has identified a need to build schools to meet the needs of children with disabilities which prevent them from accessing mainstream school. Construction of these schools has not yet commenced. Education for girls is also encouraged by increasing the number of female teachers in primary schools. A targeted training programme has been established free of charge for all trainee teachers, with monthly incentives of \$30 provided to all female participants.

55. The Ministry of Education conducted a study on out of school children in 2011 with support from UNICEF, which revealed that 68 per cent of children in Liberia are not attending school. Pregnancy has been cited as a common reason for girls dropping out of school. In more than two-thirds (67.6 per cent) of the households interviewed, girls had dropped out of school because they were pregnant while disability counted as a factor in 5.8 per cent of the households. The study has informed the planning processes to design measures to increase school enrolment and retention. The Ministry of Education has started

partnering with local NGOs like Liberia Education Trust (LET) to encourage more girls to enrol and remain in school. Such programmes teach girls the benefit of abstinence from sex as well as the benefits of education.

56. Since the submission of the last country report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, an additional 193 primary, three secondary and two tertiary schools have been constructed. 20 secondary schools have been renovated and extended.

57. A bilateral agreement signed by between the Governments of Nigeria and Liberia in 2010 has contributed to an increased number of qualified teachers from Nigeria (around 50) serving as mentors to provide technical assistance to Liberian teachers across the country.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 12, of the list of issues

58. The Children's Law has introduced an explicit prohibition on recruitment of children and their use in armed conflicts. It states in article 22.1 that "every child shall have the right to be protected from involvement in armed or any kind of violent conflicts."

59. Ministry of National Defense, according to the Children's Law, shall not recruit or conscript any child into military service, and shall ensure that the army does not use landmines and other weapons declared by the international law to be adverse to children.

60. While awaiting the ratification of the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, the Government of Liberia has implemented basic strategies to prevent the involvement of children in armed conflict. From late 2010 to 2012, political instability in Cote d'Ivoire has led to over 150,000 Ivorian refugees within Liberia. The borders between Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, and other neighbouring countries remain porous allowing for the possibility of recruitment into armed forces, including recruitment of children. However, the Government's decision to close the border with Cote d'Ivoire in June 2012 following serious attacks on UNOCI peacekeeping forces limited movement along the border, thereby decreasing the risk of child recruitment. There have been no confirmed reports of child recruitment or children associated with armed forces to date, but the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, the Emergency Response Unit of the Liberia National Police, and the Armed Forces of Liberia are regularly patrolling the border areas to track and monitor potential training camps and recruitment of children.

61. In addition to the current conflict in Cote d'Ivoire, the Government recognizes that certain socio-economic factors within Liberia may contribute to the recruitment of children, such as a lack of lucrative livelihood opportunities for youth and families as well as limited secondary education and vocational training for young people. The use of children in providing for basic family needs has long been a significant issue within Liberia, and the Government has been partnering with national and international organizations to promote formal and informal education for children and a reduction in child labour. While the Government is currently aiming to prevent and address the recruitment and use of children in armed forces, the Government continues to seek assistance from international partners in order to fully address this issue.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 13, of the list of issues

62. With the support from United Nations Agencies, the Government has achieved some key results in the period of 2008-2012, including development of a Mental Health Policy and comprehensive psychosocial training manual, establishment of psychosocial community networks and recruitment of counsellors and increased access to psychosocial support services for 513 girls, boys, and women who were survivors of sexual and gender based violence.

63. The Government has also revised and extended the National Action Plan for Prevention and Management of Gender Based Violence, 2011-2015, with a separate pillar for psychosocial support issues. The revised Plan envisages provision of holistic psychosocial support services to victims of violence in all 15 counties through recruitment and training of two counsellors for each county, nationwide awareness-raising on gender based violence and its psychosocial consequences, and building of 30 safe homes for survivors of violence and abuse.

64. In the framework of the United Nations Joint Programme on Gender Based Violence, an endowment fund has been established to provide support to survivors of gender based violence. The funds were distributed to the 15 counties. Committees comprised of representatives from the Superintendent's Office, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Gender and Development and civil society were established in all 15 counties to oversee and ensure transparent distribution of funds.

65. The Sexual and Gender Based Violence Crimes Unit established in 2009 is also providing victim support services to women and children and the expansion of the unit is envisaged in 2012 to Gbarnga, Bong County, to cater for 3 counties and provide victim support services.

66. The Ministry of Justice, Judiciary, United Nations agencies and NGOs have been actively engaged in disseminating the amendments of the Penal Code and creating awareness and building capacity among all concerned actors regarding its application.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 14, of the list of issues

67. The Ministry of Labor and the Anti-Trafficking Task Force conducted a comprehensive situation analysis of human trafficking in 2010 with support from UNICEF. The report shows that human trafficking is prevalent in Liberia, both in the country and beyond its borders for different purposes including labour exploitation, organ removal and the trafficking of drugs. The report says that there have been some successes in the implementation of the National Plan on trafficking, largely due to collaboration with the United Nations, NGOs and community-based actors both internally and across borders. However, these efforts have been delayed due to logistical difficulties, the absence of skilled manpower and funding and material shortages.

68. Amidst resource challenges, the National Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force in Liberia has, over the past year, trained 12 village-parent groups throughout the country to serve as watchdogs for rural communities, especially in the southeastern region, and conducted education and raised awareness on the danger of Human Trafficking and strategies involved in its prevention.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 15, of the list of issues

69. The age of the child in Juvenile Procedure Code is 18, and the age of criminal responsibility is 16. While there are no plans envisaged to raise the age of criminal responsibility, the death penalty has been abolished under the Children's Law: article 3.2 states that "No law shall be valid if it requires the execution or any form of killing of a child."

70. Since the submission of the last periodic report in 2009, the capacity of the Juvenile Court has been strengthened through filling of all required positions. The Court currently has five probation officers and two social workers in addition to the clerk, sheriff and three bailiffs. The Juvenile Judge, probation officers, and social workers have received comprehensive training in country and abroad.

71. While no additional juvenile courts have been established, the Government and Judiciary have envisaged in the framework of the ATTA and Joint Justice and Security Programme to build and renovate three magisterial and two circuit courts in Bong, Lofa and Nimba counties by 2013, taking into consideration the specific requirements of confidentiality and privacy in matters of juvenile hearings, including in-camera facilities.

72. The Ministry of Justice has started construction of a Juvenile Reform facility in Montserrado county to ensure that all juveniles are treated in a manner prescribed by the Juvenile Procedure Code and the Children's Law, which state that imprisonment should be a last resort and only in adequately serviced facilities of rehabilitative and educative nature, separated from adult detainees.

73. In 2010, the Judiciary and the James A.A. Pierre Judicial Training Institute with support from USAID and GIZ launched the Professional Magistrates Training Programme to deal with acute shortage of trained magistrates in Liberia, in particular in rural areas. In the framework of the programme, 61 participants with university education aged between 25 and 45 received 15 months training in all relevant areas of the law to serve as magistrates around the country. As magisterial courts have jurisdiction over juvenile matters outside of Montserrado County, all magistrates involved in the programme also received extensive training in juvenile justice, including the CRC and other relevant international and national laws and standards, with support from UNICEF. All graduate magistrates have been deployed and have been working in understaffed and remote courts since the beginning of 2012.

74. With support from UNICEF, the James A.A. Pierre Judicial Institute has developed a curriculum and training manual on Child Justice, incorporating the recently adopted Children's Law, and has trained core staff of trainers at the Institute. Since 2010 the Institute has conducted trainings for all circuit court judges, the majority of magistrates, public defenders, prosecutors and city solicitors and selected officers from the Women and Children Protection units of the Liberian National Police. The Institute also published and disseminated easy reference materials and simplified versions of the Juvenile Procedure Code and Children's Law to all concerned judicial and rule of law actors.

Part II

Reply to the issues raised in part II of the list of issues

(a) Newly implemented policies, programmes and plan and their scope

75. The National Capacity Development Strategy (2011) aims to integrate effective approaches to assessing current capacities, identifying required capacities and investing in collaborative initiatives to capitalize upon and further develop capacities in a sustainable manner across the core work of all sectors in Liberia. It has an integrated monitoring and evaluation framework and human capital baselines and targets for all sectors over the period of coming 10 years.

Republic of Liberia, 'National Youth Policy and National Youth Action Plan'

76. In 2012, the Second National Youth Policy and National Youth Action Plan, covering 2012-2017 were drafted. National consultations on the document were held in June 2012. The current version includes a specific emphasis on females and youth living with chronic diseases and disabilities. Key areas of intervention under the plan will include employment and empowerment, sexual and reproductive health, and youth participation. The policy is being finalized for submission to the national legislature.

Comprehensive Early Childhood Care and Development Programme

77. In 2012, the Government of Liberia produced a report to develop a comprehensive and integrated early childhood care and development (ECCD) programme for Liberia. The main aim of the comprehensive plan for ECCD is to bring a greater synergistic coordination to child-focused programmes and activities undertaken by various line Ministries, multilateral development partners and other stakeholders in Liberia. The report delineates the leading role of the Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of Education in collaboration with other Ministries and partners in formulating, implementing and monitoring of ECCD programmes, while recognizing the vital role of the family and community-based organizations.

Republic of Liberia, ‘National Health and Social Welfare Plan 2011 to 2021’; ‘National Social Welfare Policy’; ‘National Social Welfare Strategic Plan 2011 to 2021’ (Monrovia; Ministry of Health and Social Welfare; 2011)

78. The National Health and Social Welfare Policy outlines the Government’s plan for meeting the health service needs of the Liberian people. It includes a delineated basic package of health services, all of which are provided free of charge. Specific emphasis is placed on maternal and child health issues. The national social welfare policy outlines the Government’s strategy for addressing the basic needs of some of Liberia’s most vulnerable families and individuals, including children. It includes an analysis of the sector’s current capacity gaps and outlines the vision for meeting them. As a component of the Social Welfare Policy, consultations are currently underway to validate a basic package of social services to be provided by the Government.

Republic of Liberia, ‘National Social Protection Policy’ (Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs, forthcoming)

79. The Government of Liberia is currently drafting its first national social protection policy and strategy, which will include a range of programming goals to protect, preserve, and promote the country’s most vulnerable families. The policy will outline the Government’s commitment to providing a basic social protection floor, though the specific details of that package will be agreed in the coming years.

Republic of Liberia, ‘Revised GBV National Action Plan 2011-2015’ (Monrovia; Ministry of Gender and Development, 2011),

80. The overall goal of the Revised National GBV Action Plan is to prevent Gender Based Violence in a systematic and comprehensive manner, through a multi-sectoral and multidimensional approach and to respond through holistic care and services to survivors of GBV. The key interventions are outlined under five pillars: psychosocial, health, legal/justice, protection, and coordination.

Republic of Liberia, ‘Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene’ (Wash) Sector Strategic Plan for Liberia, 2011-2017 (Monrovia; Republic of Liberia, 2011)

81. The WASH Sector Strategic plan advocates targeting interventions in accordance with the poverty diagnostics in the country to areas of greatest need. Key approaches focus on expanding access to water supply, sanitation and hygiene, as well as improving sustainability of infrastructure and ensuring that access is equitable and reaches the poorest. It pays particular attention to the critical issue of strengthening the institutional structure in the WASH sector, which will help to improve co-ordination, coherence and monitoring, and also to the issues of financing of the sector and financial mechanisms.

82. Liberia WASH compact was designed by the Government of Liberia in collaboration with Sanitation for All (SWA) and approved by the President in May 2011.

The document addresses the need and strategies for increased access to accessible and affordable water and sanitation facilities for both rural and urban communities.

Republic of Liberia, ‘Regulations for the appropriate use and conditions of alternative care for children’ (Monrovia; Ministry of Health and Social Welfare)

83. The alternative care standards identify the roles and functions of alternative care institutions or arrangements for children in Liberia. They clarify the rules under which the Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare will regulate all child welfare institutions, including orphanages and alternative care arrangements such as foster care and kinship. The overall purpose of the regulations is to support efforts to keep children in, or return them to, the care of their family or, failing this, to find other appropriate and permanent solutions. While such permanent solutions are being sought, or in cases where they are not possible or are not in the best interests of the child, the goal of the regulations is to assure that the most suitable forms of alternative child care are identified and provided.

Republic of Liberia, ‘Strategic Roadmap for National Healing, Peace Building, and Reconciliation’

84. The reconciliation roadmap, developed under the auspices of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, is currently being finalized. It includes key strategies for accounting for the past, managing the present, and planning for the future. The roadmap includes a strategic plan for addressing many key groups and issues, including specific emphasis on the psychosocial recovery and economic empowerment needs of youth.

85. The Road Map for Accelerating the Reduction of Maternal and Neonatal Morbidity and Mortality in Liberia (2011-2015) aims at reducing by 2015 maternal mortality ratio from 994/100,000 live births in 2007 to 497/100,000 and newborn mortality rate from 38/1000 live births in 2009 to 19/1000

86. The Education Sector Plan for Liberia for 2010 to 2020 was developed in 2009. It addresses issues of access, quality, disparity, gender balance, planning, management and governance and financing of education. By providing indicators and targets for the abovementioned, the sector Plan acts as a guideline for the Ministry of Education and Education Agencies. This Plan consequently resulted in the funding of US\$40 million from the Education for All – Fast Track Initiative (Catalytic Fund).

87. The School Health Policy aims to have a more integrated approach to WASH in schools. In the framework of this policy under process of finalization, the Ministry of Education is providing deworming tablets for children in school and WASH training for teachers.

88. Amendment of the Free and Compulsory Basic Education policy: The policy was reviewed and the main changes were the move toward a more decentralized system of managing the Liberian Education system. This will allow for County Education Officers, to make decisions on budget allocations at county level.

(b) Newly established institutions or institutional reforms and their respective mandates

89. The Ministry of Justice Sexual and Gender Based Violence Crimes Unit was established in 2009 and is a dedicated sexual offenses prosecution unit comprised of 3 specially trained prosecutors, 5 case liaison officers and victim support officers. It is designed to provide a timely and effective response to complaints of rape, gang rape, sexual assault, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and incest, with particular focus on sexual offenses committed against women and children.

90. The Criminal Court “E”, established in 2008 in Montserrado County through amendments to the Judiciary Law of 1972, has an exclusive original jurisdiction over the crimes of rape, gang rape, aggravated involuntary sodomy, corruption of minors, sexual abuse of wards and sexual assault. The court’s enabling legislation also provides for special divisions of the circuit courts of other counties outside Montserrado with similar jurisdiction.

91. The Nutrition Division was established in the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. Based on EPHS, a two-year central nutrition operation plan has been developed in consultation with all nutrition stakeholders, and now all 15 counties have nutrition specific plans. Most of the counties also have designated nutrition supervisors to manage nutrition interventions in 2012.

92. National Independent Human Rights Commission was revitalized in 2010 through the appointment of 7 commissioners, however, Commissioners do not have thematic mandates, and therefore no Child Rights Commissioner has been designated yet.

93. The Probation Service was operationalized in 2010 with 14 probation officers who received a specialized training, including three designated juvenile probation officers. In 2012, 12 additional probation officers were certificated, including two juvenile officers. Probation services are functioning in 4 counties – Montserrado, Bong, Nimba and Lofa with one juvenile probation officer in each county. The fifth officer is assigned to the Juvenile Court in Monrovia.

94. The Public Defender Office was established and 20 Public Defenders were deployed across the 15 counties in 2010. The judiciary is planning to expand the services and deploy additional public defenders in the coming year.

95. The James A.A. Pierre Judicial Training Institute was established in 2008 under the auspices of the Judiciary and has a mandate of training and curriculum development of all judicial personnel. In partnership with UNICEF, the Institute has developed Child Justice Curriculum and is conducting regular on-the-job and introductory trainings for judges, magistrates, public defenders and prosecutors.

(c) Newly enacted bills and their regulations

96. The Children’s Law was adopted in 2011 by the Senate and signed by the President in 2012 and published in Official Gazette of the Republic of Liberia. The Children’s Law domesticates the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is a comprehensive law addressing all areas of the Convention, and sets up important implementation and oversight mechanisms including the establishment of Independent National Child Well-Being Council.

97. The Education Reform Act of 2011 governs and regulates the educational system and the delivery and management of the system to ensure the provision of quality education to all citizens, promote equal access to educational opportunities and decentralize the educational system.

98. Several key bills have been drafted and introduced to the legislature, including the Adoption Bill, Decent Work Bill and the Breast Milk Substitutes Code. Amendments to existing legal codes which would provide the enforcement mechanisms for many key provisions of the Children’s Law are also in the legislative process.

(d) Newly ratified human rights instruments.

99. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was ratified and deposited in August 2012.

Part III

Reply to the issues raised in part III, paragraph 1, of the list of issues

100. There is currently no mechanism in place to track the allocation of funds from the national budget in regard to implementation of areas of the Convention specifically for children. See below National Budget allocations for relevant line ministries for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011:

Table No. 2

National Budget for Line Ministries 2009-2011

<i>Ministry of:</i>	<i>Budget 2009-2010</i>	<i>Budget 2010-2011</i>
Education	\$ 26,961,800.00	\$ 30,121,249.00
Justice	\$ 20,270,000.00	\$ 21,143,669.00
Health and Social Welfare	\$ 20,146,400.00	\$ 24,855,362.00
Gender and Development	\$ 1,335,073.00	\$ 1,417,899.00
Labor	\$ 2,543,783.00	\$ 2,098,587.00
Total	\$ 71,257,056.00	\$ 79,636,766.00

Data from Ministry of Finance, 2012

Reply to the issues raised in part III, paragraph 2, of the list of issues

101. According to MICS and DHS, birth registration rate in Liberia 2000-2010 was 4 per cent for children aged 5 and below, with the registration focused primarily in urban Montserrado County because of limited access to the rest of the 14 counties.

102. In 2010, the Government, with support from UNICEF, started a Universal Birth Registration programme, aimed at capacity building and decentralized birth registration. As of 2012, the Government estimates that the rate has been increased to 9 per cent, covering all 15 counties, of which 6 per cent are in urban areas and 3 per cent in rural communities.

Reply to the issues raised in part III, paragraph 3, of the list of issues

103. No data are available on children living in informal care settings. Efforts are ongoing to ensure that relevant indicators to measure informal care are developed and integrated in the upcoming DHS in 2013.

104. Government has just recently started discussions on establishing a formal foster care system, in accordance with the provisions of the Children's Law.

Reply to the issues raised in part III, paragraph 4, of the list of issues

105. See tables below for the number of children living with their family.

Table No. 3

Children with disabilities aged 0-17 by sex and county

<i>COUNTYNAME</i>	<i>MALE</i>	<i>FEMALE</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Bomi	466	370	836
Bong	1419	1049	2468
Grand Bassa	645	481	1126
Grand Cape Mount	436	348	784

<i>COUNTY NAME</i>	<i>MALE</i>	<i>FEMALE</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Grand Gedeh	259	240	499
Grand Kru	183	156	339
Lofa	1654	1374	3028
Margibi	450	488	938
Maryland	657	523	1180
Montserrado	3186	3154	6340
Nimba	1570	1246	2816
River Cess	232	171	403
Sinoe	230	184	414
River Gee	274	194	468
Gbarpolu	162	127	289
TOTAL	11823	10105	21928

Table No. 4
Children with disabilities aged 0-17 by type of disability

<i>Kind of Disability</i>	<i>MALE</i>	<i>FEMALE</i>
Sight difficulty	9.9	10.1
Loss of leg(s)	4.9	4.9
Limited use of arm(s)	3.8	3.4
Loss of arm(s)	2.3	2
Hearing difficulty	12.1	12.2
Unable to hear (deaf)	2.8	2.8
Limited use of leg(s)	13.6	12.9
Loss of sight (blindness)	1.1	0.9
Speech impairment	2.7	1.9
Unable to speak (mute)	2.9	2.5
Mental retardation	2	1.6
Mental illness	4.5	4.6
Deaf and Dumb	1.8	1.9
Other Multiple Disabilities	5.2	4.8
Others	30.5	33.5
Total	100	100

106. For the number of children attending regular schools, see tables below.

Table No. 5
Pre-school children 3-5 years old with disabilities

<i>County</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Boys</i>					<i>Girls</i>					<i>Total Boys and Girls</i>	<i>% Enrolled disabled</i>
		<i>Visual</i>	<i>Hearing</i>	<i>Physical</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Visual</i>	<i>Hearing</i>	<i>Physical</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>		
Bomi	2008	9	17	16	4	46	8	10	9		27	73	0.6
	2011	35	62	35	20	152	9	46	18	9	82	234	

County	Year	Boys					Girls					Total Boys and Girls	% Enrolled disabled
		Visual	Hearing	Physical	Other	Total	Visual	Hearing	Physical	Other	Total		
Bong	2008	57	150	51	8	266	42	123	27	5	197	463	0.7
	2011	119	172	111	28	430	88	137	101	29	355	785	
Grand Bassa	2008	3	21	25	14	63	6	17	17	8	48	111	0.3
	2011	48	70	48	42	208	33	54	38	18	143	351	
Grand Cape Mount	2008	3	23	12	2	40	8	11	7		26	66	0.5
	2011	32	72	25	27	156	44	59	18	27	148	304	
Grand Gedeh	2008	9	19	14		42	9	21	10	1	41	83	0.6
	2011	20	44	27	2	93	21	41	19	3	84	177	
Grand Kru	2008	22	58	30	42	152	16	37	18	31	102	254	2.1
	2011	95	86	95	62	338	104	92	69	82	347	685	
Lofa	2008	75	113	54	57	299	45	91	24	50	210	509	1.5
	2011	147	180	110	76	513	141	165	97	80	483	996	
Margibi	2008	13	15	19	4	51	11	13	13	3	40	91	0.3
	2011	68	34	110	16	228	24	25	29	16	94	322	
Maryland	2008	15	24	9	1	49	13	30	8	3	54	103	0.7
	2011	26	69	81	8	184	23	51	47	4	125	309	
Montserrado	2008	39	67	76	47	229	30	53	50	33	166	395	0.3
	2011	138	160	232	73	603	109	112	130	73	424	1027	
Nimba	2008	80	212	114	40	446	75	201	68	43	387	833	0.8
	2011	182	278	167	54	681	193	238	134	54	619	1300	
River Cess	2008	6	19	11	5	41	7	15	6	1	29	70	0.5
	2011	21	29	21	7	78	11	18	8	6	43	121	
Sinoe	2008	34	39	23	6	102	29	16	16	13	74	176	1.2
	2011	61	20	61	5	147	48	31	45	20	144	291	
River Gee	2008	7	31	17	15	70	8	14	13	14	49	119	1.3
	2011	11	42	11	12	76	16	26	20	10	72	148	
Gbarpolu	2008	4	10	10	1	25	4	12	4		20	45	0.3
	2011	14	19	22	7	62	11	23	24	11	69	131	

Table No. 6
Primary school children 6-11 years old with disabilities

County	Year	Boys					Girls					Total Boys and Girls	% Enrolment disabled
		Visual	Hearing	Physical	Other	Total	Visual	Hearing	Physical	Other	Total		
Bomi	2008	1	4	4	2	11	4	7	4	1	16	27	0.35
	2011	17	28	28	5	78	12	21	17	2	52	130	
Bong	2008	62	87	69	5	223	34	66	28	5	133	356	0.65
	2011	84	205	95	18	402	57	163	48	12	280	682	

	Year	<i>Boys</i>					<i>Girls</i>						
		Visual	Hearing	Physical	Other	Total	Visual	Hearing	Physical	Other	Total		
Grand Bassa	2008	1	10	28	14	53	4	8	17	3	32	85	0.24
	2011	17	19	42	14	92	17	19	24	10	70	162	
Grand Cape Mount	2008	2	13	16		31	2	10	10		22	53	0.53
	2011	12	38	18	15	83	15	32	16	13	76	159	
Grand Gedeh	2008	7	11	14		32	7	7	12	1	27	59	0.4
	2011	13	33	26	4	76	17	23	29	3	72	148	
Grand Kru	2008	23	29	17	33	102	18	21	14	32	85	187	1.49
	2011	64	84	63	122	333	67	70	53	67	257	590	
Lofa	2008	53	93	71	78	295	32	85	60	60	237	532	1.33
	2011	116	204	104	67	491	87	190	98	65	440	931	
Margibi	2008	21	10	9	4	44	11	3	9	8	31	75	0.22
	2011	31	23	35	7	96	21	22	36	2	81	177	
Maryland	2008	21	23	18	2	64	9	16	10	1	36	100	0.47
	2011	30	57	70	3	160	27	41	71		139	299	
Montserrat	2008	75	84	107	36	302	95	80	84	28	287	589	0.033
	2011	242	138	226	78	684	178	141	167	47	533	1217	
Nimba	2008	130	129	128	29	416	88	109	88	26	311	727	0.83
	2011	121	309	157	55	642	110	232	105	48	495	1137	
River Cess	2008	10	13	12	1	36	4	3	2		9	45	0.4
	2011	9	19	16	11	55	6	9	14	15	44	99	
Sinoe	2008	40	25	22	13	100	39	9	4	12	64	164	1.28
	2011	46	67	70	17	200	46	25	43	11	125	325	
River Gee	2008	13	45	17	10	85	13	26	11	3	53	138	1.49
	2011	10	49	33	12	104	12	25	23	13	73	177	
Gbarpolu	2008	2	12	7	1	22	1	7	4	1	13	35	0.28
	2011	12	20	14	5	51	12	21	17	14	64	115	

Table No. 7
Junior high school children 12-14 years old with disabilities

County	Year	<i>Boys</i>					<i>Girls</i>					Total Boys and Girls	% Enrolled Disabled
		Visual	Hearing	Physical	Other	Total	Visual	Hearing	Physical	Other	Total		
Bomi	2008	1	4	4	2	11	4	7	41		52	63	0.3
	2011	4	1	1		6	2	0	2	0	4	10	
Bong	2008	62	87	69	5	223	34	66	28	5	133	356	0.7
	2011	12	5	31	2	50	13	2	13	2	30	80	
Grand Bassa	2008	1	10	28	14	53	4	8	17	3	32	85	0.2
	2011	0	2	7	1	10	1	0	1	1	3	13	
Grand Cape Mount	2008	2	13	16		31	2	10	19		31	62	0.4
	2011	2	4	6	0	12	2	2	2	1	7	19	

		<i>Boys</i>					<i>Girls</i>						
Grand Gedeh	2008	1	11	14		26	7	7	12	1	27	53	0.5
	2011	3	3	6		12	4	3	4		11	23	
Grand Kru	2008	23	29	17	33	102	18	21	14	32	85	187	2.7
	2011	12	8	9	12	41	4	7	4	8	23	64	
Lofa	2008	53	93	71	78	295	18	21	14	32	85	380	1.6
	2011	24	21	35	33	113	12	16	12	29	69	182	
Margibi	2008	21	10	9	4	44	11	3	9	8	31	75	1
	2011	18	9	21	10	58	2	5	2	14	23	81	
Maryland	2008	21	23	18	2	64	9	16	10	1	36	100	0.5
	2011	3	7	3		13	5	2	5		12	25	
Montserrat	2008	75	84	107	36	302	95	80	84	28	287	589	0.5
	2011	60	24	86	26	196	46	21	46	14	127	323	0.4
Nimba	2008	130	129	128	29	416	88	109	88	26	311	727	1.3
	2011	49	31	52	11	143	17	15	17	5	54	197	1.2
River Cess	2008	10	13	12	1	36	4	3	2		9	45	0.6
	2011	1		1	0	2	0		0	1	1	3	0.4
Sinoe	2008	40	25	22	13	100	39	9	4	12	64	164	0.6
	2011	1	2	9		12	5	0	5	0	10	22	
River Gee	2008	13	45	17	10	85	13	26	11	3	53	138	6.1
	2011	4	3	3		10	0	1	0	0	1	11	
Gbarpolu	2008	2	12	7	1	22	1	7	4	1	13	35	1.3
	2011	0	3	2	3	8	4	2	4	2	12	20	

Table No. 8
Senior school children 15-18 years old with disabilities

County	Year	<i>Boys</i>					<i>Girls</i>					Total Boys and Girls	% Enrolled Disabled
		Visual	Hearing	Physical	Other	Total	Visual	Hearing	Physical	Other	Total		
Bomi	2008	1				1					0	1	0.1
	2011	2	6	5			0	4	1	1	6	6	
Bong	2008			8		8	1		4		5	13	0.4
	2011	5	1	10			0	2	7	0	9	9	
Grand Bassa	2008			2		2					0	2	0.2
	2011		0	2			0	1	0	0	1	1	
Grand Cape Mount	2008			1		1					0	1	0.8
	2011	0					1	0	0	0	1	1	
Grand Gedeh	2008			2		2					0	2	0.2
	2011						0	0	2		2	2	
Grand Kru	2008					0					0	0	
	2011	4	3	3	2		2	2	3	1	8	8	7

		<i>Boys</i>						<i>Girls</i>					
Lofa	2008	4	1	6	4	15	2	2	2	6	21	1	
	2011	5	3	16	1		7	4	8	0	19	19	
Margibi	2008	1		2		3				0	3	0.1	
	2011	3	1	10	1		0	1	4	2	7	7	
Maryland	2008			1		1				0	1	0.1	
	2011	0		3			1	0	2	3	3		
Montserrado	2008	19	14	58	11	102	18	7	27	7	59	161	0.5
	2011						7	6	22	2	37	37	
Nimba	2008	54	20	7	9	90	29	5	5	3	42	132	2.4
	2011	3	3	13	1		2	1	5	0	8	8	
River Cess	2008			1		1				0	1	2.1	
	2011						0		0	0	0	0	
Sinoe	2008					0			1	1	1	0.3	
	2011	1		3			0	0	0	0	0	0	
River Gee	2008	14	7	6	6	33				1	1	34	14.5
	2011	0	0	5	2		1	1	1	0	3	3	
Gbarpolu	2008					0				0	0		
	2011		1	1			0	0	0	0	0	0	

107. No data is available on children attending special schools.

108. No data is available on children not attending schools.

Reply to the issues raised in part III, paragraph 5, of the list of issues

109. The number of health facilities which were restored in the last three years (2008-2011) in different counties is set out below.

- 606 Clinics
- 35 Hospitals
- 45 Health Centers

110. The rates of infant and child mortality and updated number of children suffering from stunting or malnutrition are set out below.

- Neonatal Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births) – 34 (2010)
- Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births) – 71 (2010)
- Child Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births) – 103 (2010)
- While Liberia has been able to control acute malnutrition and the prevalence of 2.8 per cent is lowest in West Africa, chronic malnutrition (stunting) has been an enduring problem. The prevalence of stunting has not declined in the past seven years and the rate of 42 per cent is one of the highest in the region.

111. The rates of HIV/AIDS infections among children are set out below.

- HIV prevalence among youth (15-19) is 0.9 per cent according to Liberian Demographic Health Survey, which was conducted in 2007. No data on HIV prevalence among children (0-19) are available.

Reply to the issues raised in part III, paragraph 6 of the list of issues

112. No data is available on the rates of literacy of those under 18 years of age

113. The rates of enrolment in preschools, primary school and secondary schools are set out in the table below.

Table No. 9
Net enrollment rates 2008-2011

County	<i>Pre- Primary 3-5 years old</i>						<i>Primary 6-11 years old</i>						<i>Junior High 12 -15 years old</i>						<i>Senior High 15 - 18 years old</i>					
	2008			2011			2008			2011			2008			2011			2008			2011		
	Net Girls	Net Boys	Net Both	Net Girls	Net Boys	Net Both	Net Girls	Net Boys	Net Both	Net Girls	Net Boys	Net Both	Net Girls	Net Boys	Net Both	Net Girls	Net Boys	Net Both	Net Girls	Net Boys	Net Both	Net Girls	Net Boys	Net Both
Bomi	33	33	33	52	53	52	17	19	18	26	28	27	2	2	2	10	9	9	0	1	1	2	3	2
Bong	42	47	44	40	46	43	30	37	33	41	43	42	1	2	1	4	3	4	2	3	3	2	2	2
Gbarpolu	32	36	34	65	69	67	28	32	30	43	54	49	2	2	2	6	7	7	1	2	1	0	1	1
Grand Bassa	44	49	47	41	46	44	30	32	31	25	28	26	1	1	1	3	5	5	0	0	0	3	4	3
Grand Cape Mount	31	30	30	29	32	30	19	21	20	32	31	31	1	1	1	6	7	6	0	0	0	2	1	2
Grand Gedeh	25	24	25	37	40	39	18	19	19	29	32	31	1	1	1	2	3	3	0	0	0	1	2	2
Grand Kru	54	63	58	60	68	64	30	42	36	54	62	58	1	1	1	3	4	3	0	0	0	7	29	19
Lofa	34	36	35	35	40	37	40	46	43	44	51	47	1	2	2	3	5	4	1	3	2	2	3	2
Margibi	33	33	33	43	44	44	36	38	37	47	49	48	7	8	8	11	13	12	6	6	6	10	11	10
Maryland	27	28	28	35	36	35	17	24	21	34	35	34	1	2	2	1	2	2	3	6	4	2	3	3
Montserratado	36	33	35	65	65	65	42	38	40	53	59	56	11	11	11	15	18	16	13	14	13	14	15	14
Nimba	44	45	45	44	49	47	30	33	31	38	44	41	2	2	2	3	4	3	1	2	1	1	2	1
River Cess	39	41	40	42	43	43	17	22	19	24	26	25	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
River Gee	33	31	32	27	26	27	22	26	24	27	28	28	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Sinoe	28	27	27	37	38	37	17	19	18	26	27	26	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1

114. For the percentage of children completing primary and secondary education, see table below.

Table No. 10
Net completion rate

2011 County	Primary school 3-5 years old			Junior High 12 -15 years old			Senior high school 15 - 18 years old		
	MALE	FEMALE	Total	MALE	FEMALE	Total	MALE	FEMALE	Total
Bomi	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
Bong	3	3	3	1	1	1	0	0	0
Gbarpolu	4	4	4	4	2	3	0	0	0
Grand Bassa	1	1	1	3	2	3	0	1	0
Grand Cape Mount	3	3	3	2	1	2	0	0	0
Grand Gedeh	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
Grand Kru	2	0	1	5	2	3	4	0	2
Lofa	6	5	5	1	1	1	1	0	1
Margibi	7	8	8	5	6	6	10	10	10
Maryland	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Montserrado	7	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5
Nimba	4	4	4	1	1	1	0	0	0
River Cess	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
River Gee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sinoe	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0

115. For the number and percentage of dropouts and repetitions, see tables below.

Table No. 11
Number of children who have dropped out of school

2011 County	Junior High 12 -15 years old			Senior High School 15 - 18 years old		
	MALE	FEMALE	Total	MALE	FEMALE	Total
Bomi	78	102	180	6	11	17
Bong	256	227	483	135	141	276
Gbarpolu	47	48	95	7	2	9
Grand Bassa	218	210	428	93	69	162
Grand Cape Mount	70	63	133	9	3	12
Grand Gedeh	126	142	268	83	57	140
Grand Kru	58	50	108	13	4	17
Lofa	194	184	378	54	44	98
Margibi	324	315	639	91	72	163
Maryland	129	135	264	90	80	170
Montserrado	1952	2,163	4,115	1061	1,072	2,133
Nimba	721	689	1,410	176	144	320

2011	Junior High 12 -15 years old			Senior High School 15 - 18 years old		
River Cess	49	32	81	4	5	9
River Gee	101	41	142	30	8	38
Sinoe	83	61	144	1852	1,714	3,566

Table No. 12
Number of children who repeated school

2011	Primary School			Junior High School			Senior High School		
County	MALE	FEMALE	Total	MALE	FEMALE	Total	MALE	FEMALE	Total
Bomi	396	346	742	52	43	95	10	14	24
Bong	1758	1,616	3,374	159	173	332	47	56	103
Gbarpolu	484	447	931	49	20	69	4	1	5
Grand Bassa	1595	1,921	3,516	184	137	321	81	47	128
Grand Cape Mount	1077	1,025	2,102	82	60	142	17	15	32
Grand Gedeh	682	695	1,377	111	119	230	54	37	91
Grand Kru	646	555	1,201	59	32	91	12	2	14
Lofa	1946	1,954	3,900	214	171	385	58	30	88
Margibi	1565	1,572	3,137	302	228	530	124	83	207
Maryland	832	798	1,630	81	68	149	65	48	113
Montserrado	5695	5,985	11,680	1699	1,696	3,395	1192	1,007	2,199
Nimba	3403	3,137	6,540	378	348	726	111	108	219
River Cess	757	615	1,372	26	7	33	2	1	3
River Gee	576	471	1,047	26	13	39	10	1	11
Sinoe	692	624	1,316	54	25	79	5	4	9

116. For the ratio of teachers to pupils and the number of children per class, see table 13 below.

Table No. 13

County	2008					2011				
	Pre-Primary	Primary	Junior High	Senior High	All Levels	Pre-Primary	Primary	Junior High	Senior High	All Levels
Bomi	145	49	35	36	71	43	30	34	19	36
Bong	239	74	21	32	88	83	43	17	24	50
Gbarpolu	142	75	9	9	86	53	38	15	11	40
Grand Bassa	183	87	21	33	94	55	28	17	14	37
Grand Cape Mount	126	39	11	8	54	48	24	17	9	31
Grand Gedeh	459	157	53	40	162	39	26	11	19	27
Grand Kru	273	82	14	9	85	45	27	8	46	30
Lofa	229	85	26	25	87	58	37	16	21	38
Margibi	80	48	20	35	48	56	36	17	16	34

Student to Teacher Ratios - Number of students per teacher

Maryland	266	114	29	37	102	65	34	25	41	40
Montserrado	89	47	23	31	45	53	34	23	21	33
Nimba	191	63	18	21	69	78	35	13	18	41
River Cess	220	77	12	9	106	57	31	12	10	40
River Gee	207	68	15	21	74	39	24	14	22	28
Sinoe	178	69	13	19	72	32	17	6	20	21

117. The proportion of qualified teachers and unqualified teachers receiving professional training is set out in the table below.

Table No. 14

Number of trained teachers by level, county and sex

2011 County	Pre-primary			Primary			Junior High			Senior High		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	female	total	Male	female	total	Male	female	total
Bomi	135	63	198	220	18	238	89	5	94	27	1	28
Bong	327	224	551	1123	121	1,244	375	11	386	107	7	114
Gbarpolu	121	33	154	256	22	278	78	0	78	9	0	9
Grand Bassa	243	102	345	541	66	607	126	3	129	25	1	26
Grand Cape Mount	194	60	254	404	30	434	104	2	106	30	0	30
Grand Gedeh	100	58	158	324	51	375	151	3	154	17	2	19
Grand Kru	69	19	88	223	7	230	132	2	134	12	0	12
Lofa	249	78	327	868	40	908	325	6	331	56	2	58
Margibi	244	281	525	874	172	1,046	419	31	450	172	13	185
Maryland	28	42	70	294	69	363	155	1	156	33	1	34
Montserrado	688	1769	2457	4516	1,227	5,743	2686	202	2,888	1197	51	1,248
Nimba	319	439	758	1781	321	2,102	815	36	851	191	9	200
River Cess	73	14	87	189	4	193	41	1	42	8	0	8
River Gee	53	15	68	182	19	201	72	0	72	7	1	8
Sinoe	40	27	67	177	30	207	115	4	119	11	1	12

Reply to the issues raised in part III, paragraph 7, of the list of issues

118. The National child Rights Observatory Group (NACROG) has been functioning with limited capacity to conduct monitoring and observation since 2010, therefore the information collected does not fully express the extent and scope of child abuse in the country. See below the information from NACROG regarding the complaints and cases dealt with through 2008-2012 and assistance provided.

Table No. 15
NACROG data 2008-2012

<i>Type of Violation</i>	<i>Total #</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Counseling</i>	<i>Social Integration</i>	<i>Abandoned/ Unresolved/ Without Action</i>		<i>Resolved</i>	<i>Follow-Up/ On-going</i>
Rape	191	0	191	176	175	11	9	171	
Gang rape	8	0	8	7	7	0	0	8	
Sodomy	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Neglect	21	13	8	0	0	6	15	6	
Abandonment	104	57	47	0	0	1	3	100	
Kidnap	4	3	1	0	0	1	0	3	
Torture	7	4	3	0	0	0	3	4	
Murder	3	1	2	0	0	0	2	1	
Child Trafficking	39	0	0	0	0	0	39	0	
Force initiation	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Illegal detention	147	138	9	0	0	105	105	42	
Total	526	217	270	183	182	124	177	336	

119. The SGBV unit of the Ministry of Justice has since its establishment in 2009 up to July 2012 received 393 cases from the Women and Children Protection Section of the Police of which 365 are against children. Below is the age range of victims:

Table No. 16

<i>No</i>	<i>Age Range</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	4-11m	1
2.	1-5 yrs	27
3.	6-12 yrs	157
4.	13-17 yrs	180
	Total	365

SGBVU data, 2012

120. The Women and Children Protection Section of the National Police has received 230 cases of GBV crime against children in 2010 and 222 in 2011. See tables below for more details on cases dealt with by the WACPS.

Table No. 17

WACPS Data on child victims by age group and type of crime 2010 and crime disposition

No.	CRIME CATEGORIES	VICTIMS AGE RANGE						TOTAL
		0-5.		6-12.		13-17.		
		M	F	M	F	M	F	
1	SGBV crime							
	Rape	0	6	1	37	0	71	115
2	Corruption of minor	0	4	0	22	0	1	27
3	Gang rape	0	0	0	2	0	2	4
4	Sexual assault	0	1	0	6	0	6	13
5	Statutory rape	0	2	0	27	0	39	68
6	Sodomy	0	2	1	0	0	0	3
	Domestic violence							
7	Persistent non-support	0	6	2	2	1	19	30
8	Felonious restraint	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
9	Aggravated assault	0	1	11	5	9	16	42
10	Simple assault	1	3	18	23	37	89	171
11	Terroristic threat	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Other crime							
12	Criminal mischief	0	1	0	2	0	5	8
13	Interference with child custody	0	0	0	1	2	8	11
14	Disorderly conduct	0	1	1	3	7	23	35
15	Loitering	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Misapplication of entrusted property	0	0	0	0	2	3	5
17	Menacing	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
18	Human trafficking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Endangering with child welfare	2	2	4	6	2	4	20
20	Kidnapping	1	0	3	0	0	3	7
21	Theft	0	0	3	0	21	20	44
	TOTAL	4	29	44	138	81	312	608

NO.	CRIME DISPOSITION	VICTIMS 0-17 YRS 2010
1	# of cases pending investigation	222
2	# of cases sent to court	169
3	# of cases withdrawn	255
4	# of cases transferred to save home	4
	TOTAL	650

<i>NO.</i>	<i>CRIME DISPOSITION</i>	<i>VICTIMS 0-17 YRS 2011</i>
1	# of cases pending investigation	206
2	# of cases sent to Court	139
3	# of cases withdrawn	135
4	# of Cases transferred to save home	0
	TOTAL	480

Table No. 18
WACPS data on child victims by age group and type of crime 2011 and crime disposition

<i>CRIME CATEGORIES</i>	<i>VICTIMS AGE RANGE</i>						<i>TOTAL</i>
	0-5.		6-12.		13-17.		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
GBV							
Rape	1	5	3	43	1	90	143
Corruption of minor	0	1	0	18	0	11	30
Gang rape	0	0	0	2	0	3	5
Sexual assault	0	2	0	4	3	6	15
Statutory rape	0	2	0	8	0	16	26
Involuntary sodomy	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Sodomy	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Domestic violence							
Persistent non-support	0	0	1	1	19	2	23
Felonious restraint	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated assault	0	0	4	2	2	13	21
Simple assault	1	2	13	20	27	75	138
Terroristic threat	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Other crime							
Arm robbery	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Criminal mischief	0	1	1	3	1	7	13
Criminal coercion	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Interference with child custody	0	0	0	1	1	7	9
Disorderly conduct	1	1	1	4	3	7	17
Robbery	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Misapplication of entrusted property	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Menacing	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Human trafficking	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Endangering with child welfare	0	1	2	2	0	5	10
Kidnapping	2	0	0	0	0	1	3
Theft	0	0	1	0	6	6	13
TOTAL	5	15	30	111	66	253	480

Reply to the issues raised in part III, paragraph 8, of the list of issues

121. See tables 17 and 18 above. No data are available on details regarding legal proceedings and sanctions pronounced, as the judicial system, and the entire rule of law sector have just started working on establishment of record management and data collection.

Reply to the issues raised in part III, paragraph 9, of the list of issues

122. No data are available on persons who have been tried as adults, as the judicial record keeping system is currently under development. The Montserrat County Juvenile Court statistics are the following for the concerned period.

Table No. 19

Cases dealt with by the Juvenile Court 2009-2012

Age Group	Year			
	2009	2010	2011	2012
07 to 15	16	32	28	21
16 to 17	26	31	38	17
Total	42	63	66	38

123. The Women and Children Protection Section data on children in conflict with the law for 2010 and 2011 are available by age group 7-15 (below criminal responsibility) and 16-17, along with disposition status of offences. See tables below:

NO.	DISPOSITION	OFFENDERS 7-17 YRS
		2010
1	# of cases pending investigation	160
2	# of cases sent to Court	79
3	# of cases withdrawn	278
4	# of cases transferred to save home	3

Table No. 20

WACPS data on alleged offenders by age group and type of offence 2010 and disposition

No.	OFFENCE CATEGORIES	OFFENDERS AGE RANGE				TOTAL
		7-15.		16-17		
		F	M	F	M	
1	Rape	0	3	0	8	11
2	Corruption of minor	0	1	0	25	26
3	Gang rape	0	0	0	1	1
4	Sexual assault	0	0	0	3	3
5	Statutory rape	0	1	0	1	2
6	Sodomy	0	1	0	1	2
	Domestic violence					
7	Persistent non-support	1	0	0	3	4
8	Felonious restraint	0	0	0	0	0
9	Aggravated assault	5	8	5	11	29
10	Simple assault	13	18	15	30	76

No.	OFFENCE CATEGORIES	OFFENDERS AGE RANGE				TOTAL
		7-15.		16-17		
	SGBV crime	F	M	F	M	
11	Terroristic threat	0	2	0	4	6
	Other crime					
12	Criminal mischief	1	5	1	9	16
13	Interference with child custody	0	0	1	3	4
14	Disorderly conduct	5	10	8	15	38
15	Loitering	0	0	0	1	1
16	Misapplication of entrusted property	0	1	1	6	8
17	Menacing	0	0	0	0	0
18	Human trafficking	0	0	0	0	0
19	Endangering with child welfare	1	0	4	0	5
20	Kidnapping	0	0	0	1	1
21	Theft	26	75	12	112	225
	Total	52	125	47	234	458

Table No.21

WACPS Data on alleged offenders by age group and type of offence 2011 and disposition

OFFENCE CATEGORIES	OFFENDERS AGE RANGE				TOTAL
	7-15.		16-17		
	F	M	F	M	
GBV					
Rape	1	7	0	14	22
Corruption of minor	0	23	0	12	35
Gang rape	0	0	0	1	1
Sexual assault	0	0	0	1	1
Statutory rape	0	0	0	1	1
Involuntary sodomy	0	1	0	0	1
Sodomy	0	0	0	1	1
Domestic violence					
Persistent non-support	0	2	1	2	5
Felonious restraint	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated assault	3	4	8	8	23
Simple assault	10	21	17	39	87
Terroristic threat	0	1	0	0	1
Other crime					
Arm robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Criminal mischief	1	7	1	6	15
Criminal coercion	0	1	0	0	1
Interference with child custody	0	0	1	3	4
Disorderly conduct	4	9	5	12	30

OFFENCE CATEGORIES	OFFENDERS AGE RANGE				TOTAL
	7-15.		16-17		
	F	M	F	M	
Robbery	0	1	0	0	1
Misapplication of entrusted property	0	1	1	12	14
Menacing	0	0	0	1	1
Human trafficking	0	0	0	0	0
Endangering with child welfare	0	1	1	2	4
Kidnapping	0	0	0	1	1
Theft	18	61	13	86	178
Total	37	140	48	202	427

NO.	DISPOSITION	OFFENDERS 7-17 YRS 2011
1	# of cases pending investigation	156
2	# of cases sent to Court	80
3	# of cases withdrawn	202
4	# of Cases transferred to save home	0
	TOTAL	438

124. While no longitudinal comprehensive data are available on number of children detained in penitentiaries, the information from the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation from the Ministry of Justice below provides the average number of children in conflict with the law per month, both detained and sentenced for 2010-2012 and current number and status of children in conflict with the law in penitentiaries across the country.

Table No. 22

Monthly averages of children in detention 2010-2012

	Average/month			
	Detained		Sentenced	
	M	F	M	F
2010	49.9	1.8	10.5	0.0
2011	44.7	2.6	2.3	0.0
2012	36.8	1.0	0.3	0.0

Table No. 23

Children in conflict with the law in penitentiaries as of 2012, August

#	Age on admission	Sex	Date of Arrest	Charge	Date of Committal
1	17	M	23-Jul-12	Illegal possession of fire arm	2-Aug-12
2	16	M	23-Jul-12	Illegal possession of fire arm	2-Aug-12
3	15	M	23-Jul-12	Illegal Possession of fire arm	2-Aug-12
4	17	M	22-Jun-12	Agg. assault	22-Jun-12
5	15	M	8-Jun-12	Burglary	8-Jun-12
6	16	M	6-Feb-11	Rape	15-Feb-11

#	Age on admission	Sex	Date of Arrest	Charge	Date of Committal
7	17	M	16-Jul-11	Rape	19-Jul-11
8	17	M	13-Oct-11	Gang rape	19-Oct-11
9	16	M	26-Oct-11	Rape	29-Oct-11
10	17	M	4-Nov-11	Rape	11-Nov-11
11	15	M	29-Dec-11	Involuntary sodomy	3-Jan-12
12	16	M	1-Jan-12	Theft of property	3-Jan-12
13	15	M	2-feeb-12	Rape	6-Feb-12
14	17	M	18-Mar-12	Kidnapping	23-Mar-12
15	16	M	25-Mar-12	M-O-E-property*	27-Mar-12
16	17	M	19-May-12	Armed robbery	23-May-12
17	15	M	25-May-12	M-O-E-property	28-May-12
18	17	M	11-Jun-12	Burglary	14-Jun-12
19	17	M	25-Jun-12	M-O-E-property	25-Jun-12
20	17	M	21-Jun-12	Burglary	26-Jun-12
21	16	M	21-Jun-12	Theft of property	26-Jun-12
22	16	M	29-Jun-12	Theft of property	2-Jul-12
23	17	M	8-Jul-12	Robbery	9-Jul-12
24	17	M	7-Jul-12	M-O-E-property	11-Jul-12
25	17	M	11-Jul-12	Attempted armed robbery	11-Jul-12
26	17	M	9-Jul-12	M-O-E-property	11-Jul-12
27	17	M	5-Jul-12	Theft of property	14-Jul-12
28	17	M	17-Jul-12	Preventing arrest	17-Jul-12
29	16	M	17-Jul-12	Preventing arrest	17-Jul-12
30	17	M	17-Jul-12	Terroristic threat	17-Jul-12
31	16	M	19-Jul-12	Terroristic threat	19-Jul-12
32	17	M	18-Jul-12	M-O-E-property	20-Jul-12
33	17	M	15-Jul-12	Armed robbery	20-Jul-12
34	17	M	31-Jul-12	Agg. assault	31-Jul-12
35	14	M	2-Aug-12	Theft of property	2-Aug-12
36	17	M	7-Feb-12	Gang rape	20-Feb-12
37	17	M	11-Apr-12	Theft of property	16-Apr-12
38	15	M	20-Apr-12	M-O-E-property	20-Apr-12
39	17	M	19-Jun-12	Theft of property	21-Jun-12
40	17	M	28-Jun-12	M-O-E-property	28-Jun-12
41	17	M	4-Dec-11	Theft of property	7-Dec-11
42	17	M	4-Apr-12	Burglary	10-Apr-12
43	16	M	15-May-12	Murder	16-May-12
44	16	M	29-Jul-12	Rape/Incest	30-Jul-12

* *M-O-E-Property stands for misuse of entrusted property*

Reply to the issues raised in part III, paragraph 10, of the list of issues

125. The Government and the international community have coordinated closely since the onset of the Ivorian refugee emergency at the end of 2010. The post-election crisis in Cote d'Ivoire resulted in more than 170,000 Ivorian refugees seeking protection across a 700 km long border with Liberia. By 2012, the Government and international actors identified the need to continue direct protection and assistance for 120,000 Ivorian refugees, 2,000 Third Country Nationals (TCN), and 15,000 expected Liberian returnees while ensuring continued recovery support to approximately 140,000 vulnerable Liberians affected by the influx of Ivorian refugees in four Southeastern Liberian Counties (Nimba, Maryland, Grand Gedeh, and River Gee).

126. Children aged 17 years and under account for approximately 65 per cent of the affected refugee population, and, of these children, many are in extremely vulnerable situations due to separation from primary caregivers, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. In addition, the refugee-affected areas include hundreds of communities where, during the height of the crisis, the population of refugees outnumbered those of the local Liberian population. This influx strained existing resources within Liberian communities and exacerbated the vulnerabilities among the Liberian population that existed before the crisis. The Government, in collaboration with international organizations, has addressed many of these concerns through the provision of health, nutrition, education, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene services.
