

**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR RECONSTRUCTION,
RESETTLEMENT AND REHABILITATION**



**SIERRA LEONE
RESETTLEMENT STRATEGY**

**Enabling the displaced to rebuild their lives back
in their communities with safety and dignity**

REVISED

OCTOBER 2001

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Abbreviations

CFA	Committee on Food Aid
CRRP	Community Reintegration and Rehabilitation Programme
ECSLRRP	European Commission Sierra Leone Rehabilitation and Resettlement Programme
FFW	Food For Work
FFAG	Food For Agriculture
GoSL	Government of Sierra Leone
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
NCDDR	National Committee for Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration
NCRRR	National Commission for Reconstruction, Resettlement and Rehabilitation
NFI	Non Food Item
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NTC	National Technical Committee (of the CFA)
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN)
SAPA	Social Action and Poverty Alleviation
SLA	Sierra Leone Army
SLIS	Sierra Leone Information System
SLRA	Sierra Leone Roads Authority
TEP	Training and Employment Programme
UNAMSIL	United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VGF	Vulnerable Group Feeding

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Ten years of war, commencing in 1991, have inflicted death on more than 25,000 lives and caused the internal displacement of more than 1.2 million people within Sierra Leone. UNHCR has estimated that, in successive waves of flight and return, more than 500,000 people have at some point had to flee Sierra Leone into neighbouring countries. The war has resulted in the devastation of the economy and the destruction and debilitation of houses, infrastructure and basic services in both rural and urban communities.

The reactivation of the peace process has rekindled the opportunity for peace and reconciliation within the country. A central requirement of the peace process is the disarmament and demobilisation of ex-combatants and their reintegration back into society. As this proceeds, the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) together with its local and international partners are endeavouring to extend humanitarian assistance to previously inaccessible parts of the country, re-engage in reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in support of war-affected populations and restore civil authority.

A core part of this transitional process involves the planning and implementation of programmes to support the resettlement and reintegration of the displaced back into their communities in safety and with dignity. This is in part conditional upon the continued progress of the disarmament and demobilisation process and, with this, the expansion and consolidation of security throughout the country. As this develops, the provision of support to rehabilitate the livelihood security of returnees will enhance the opportunity for reconciliation and the shift to longer-term development.

The Resettlement Strategy sets in place the mechanisms by which this will take place.

1.2 Aim and principles of the Resettlement Strategy

1.2.1 Aim of the resettlement strategy:

- ?? To support the resettlement and reintegration of internally displaced, refugees and ex-combatants with their dependants back into their communities, strengthen their livelihood security and promote reconciliation

1.2.2 Principles of Resettlement

The principles on which the resettlement strategy are based are:

- ?? GoSL will only facilitate resettlement into an area when it is deemed that the area in question is sufficiently safe to allow for the return of displaced people in safety¹ and dignity²

¹ In which displaced people can return under conditions of legal, physical and material security.

² In which displaced people are not harassed either on departure, en route or upon arrival, are not separated from their family members, are allowed to return without preconditions, are accepted and welcomed by national and local authorities and local populations, and their rights and freedoms are fully restored so that they can start a meaningful life with self-esteem and self-confidence. Abridged from

- ?? As far as possible support measures provided during the resettlement process will be standardised and in parity to avoid inter and intra -community tensions
- ?? As far as possible support for integrated resettlement, reconstruction and rehabilitation will be community-based incorporating resettling internally displaced persons (IDPs), displaced returnees, repatriating refugees, ex-combatants, their dependants and existing resident populations
- ?? The geographical unit that will be used for assessing safety of resettlement and for resettlement planning will be the chiefdom.
- ✍ All beneficiary groups are fully informed of the support they are entitled to and of the procedures for accessing them
- ?? Resettlement and reintegration programmes for IDPs, refugees and ex-combatants are integrated as far as possible
- ?? Every effort will be made to ensure that there is close co-ordination of all aspects of assistance for the resettlement process to ensure appropriate targeting and efficient use of resources
- ?? The resettlement process is closely monitored to ensure that appropriate interventions are made for those beneficiaries failing to cope adequately during this transitional period

2. Beneficiary Groups

Due to the scale of displacement within the country and the longevity of the conflict, there exists a broad spectrum of beneficiary groups to be supported in the resettlement process. This also includes existing resident populations in areas in which resettlement occurs, who too have been severely affected by the conflict and for whom assistance may also be required. This is to ensure parity of assistance and reduce potential tensions that may arise.

This section provides an analysis of the different beneficiary groups and the support offered to them during the resettlement process. Updated figures for the various beneficiary groups can be obtained from the appropriate organisations, such as NCRRR, UNHCR and OCHA.

2.1 Registered IDPs³

This population⁴ consists of those displaced people who have been registered and verified, and are currently receiving IDP support services, whether in IDP camps or in host communities.

UNHCR *Plan of Operation for Voluntary Repatriation and Reintegration of Sierra Leonean Refugees* . September 2001.

³ IDPs are defined as: "persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an international recognised State border". See NCRRR IDP Policy Document.

⁴ Updated figures for this beneficiary group, including projected area of resettlement, can be obtained from NCRRR or OCHA .

When their chiefdom of origin is declared safe for resettlement, these IDPs will enter into the resettlement programme, which is described in detail within Section 3. This will include transportation and the receipt of a resettlement package, the potential for entry into seeds and tools or other employment-based safety-net programmes and benefits from community rehabilitation and reconstruction targeted at basic service provision and income generation.

2.2 Unregistered IDPs

This population of IDPs, equating to roughly 15% of the total displaced population, has not been registered and so will not be entitled to the targeted resettlement assistance provided to registered IDPs and returnees. However, in cases where there is clear evidence of unregistered IDPs being resident in camp environments for some time, then transport assistance may be provided to support their return to their areas of resettlement. This will be undertaken separately from the transport assistance provided to registered IDPs and returnees. No other targeted, start-up assistance will be provided. Given the drive to phase-down IDP camps and support resettlement, the GoSL does not support the registration of new caseloads, unless there is a significant new displacement of people.

Unregistered IDPs may benefit from community-based support being provided in their area of resettlement. This could include, for example, entry onto seeds and tools programmes and/or other employment-based safety net / income generating schemes, as well as gaining benefits from community-based initiatives supporting the rehabilitation and reconstruction of basic services and the resuscitation of the local economy.

Provision of food aid to vulnerable groups within this category may be provided through employment-based safety-net schemes, school feeding programmes, VGF rations in cases of food insecurity and, in cases where there is acute malnutrition, therapeutic feeding. The needs for such interventions will be determined through food security and nutritional monitoring. Similarly, they may also be supported with non-food assistance.

2.3 Refugees and returnees

There are estimated to be around 200,000 Sierra Leonean refugees currently living in countries of asylum, the majority of which are in Liberia and Guinea. As stated in UNHCR's Plan of Operation for Voluntary Repatriation and Reintegration of Sierra Leonean Refugees⁵:

Repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees will be facilitated and/or promoted in accordance with generally accepted norms and principles of refugee law and human rights. These include, in particular, that repatriation shall be voluntary.

?? Promoted repatriation can take place only when overall conditions are conducive for mass return in safety and dignity and such returns have good prospects of being durable

?? Voluntary repatriation may be facilitated by UNHCR when refugees indicate a strong desire to return voluntarily and/or have begun doing

⁵ UNHCR. September 2001.

so on their own initiatives, even where UNHCR does not consider that conditions exist for return in safety and dignity⁶

2.3.1 Facilitated repatriation

“Facilitation” involves protection and assistance measures aimed at refugee-induced voluntary repatriation in situations where UNHCR cannot encourage such repatriation, but is respecting the strong desire of refugees to return voluntarily. Although facilitation is often considered solely in relation to “spontaneous” self-movement, UNHCR’s facilitation of voluntary repatriation may in some cases involve transport assistance⁷.

Registered returnees, voluntarily deciding to return to Sierra Leone and originating from safe areas, will benefit from the same support measures offered to registered IDPs resettling to safe areas.

For registered returnees coming from areas yet to be declared safe for resettlement, UNHCR and its implementing partners are providing humanitarian assistance in temporary settlements and host communities in safe areas. When their chiefdoms of origin are declared safe for resettlement, these returnees, termed “displaced returnees”, will enter the resettlement programme and receive the same benefits and support offered to registered IDPs (see Section 2.1).

2.3.2 Promoted repatriation

“Promotion” generally relates to UNHCR’s role in encouraging the return once conditions conducive to a sustainable return are met. Promotion of voluntary repatriation movements means actively undertaking broad and wide-ranging measures for that purpose. Promotion of repatriation can only take place when a careful assessment of the situation in the country of origin shows that stability is durable and overall improvements permit return in “safety and dignity”⁸.

The basic criteria, based on this GoSL Resettlement Strategy (see Section 3.1) and UNHCR’s preconditions for promoting voluntary repatriation, that should be met throughout the country are:

- ?? Complete absence of hostilities;
- ?? Completion of disarmament and demobilisation, and ongoing reintegration;
- ?? Law and order maintenance by the police;
- ?? Security maintenance by UNAMSIL and/or Sierra Leone Army;
- ?? Unhindered and safe access of humanitarian workers;
- ?? Presence of the district and local administration;
- ?? Sizeable facilitated and spontaneous returnee and IDP movements to areas of origin; and,
- ?? Stability after free and fair elections.

With these conditions met, refugees will be able to return directly to their areas of return. All aspects of promoted repatriation, including issues of protection, beneficiary

⁶ UNHCR. *Op. Cit.* Sept 2001. p. 16

⁷ UNCHR. *Op. Cit.* Sept. 2001. p. 16

⁸ UNHCR. *Op. Cit.* Sept 2001. p. 16.

rights, responsibilities and implementation arrangements, will be articulated and have legal basis in tripartite agreements forged between GoSL, the Governments of the principal countries of asylum and UNHCR.

Targeted assistance, such as transportation and 'start-up' packages, offered to returnees under promoted repatriation will be in parity to that provided in the resettlement of registered IDPs and displaced returnees. This support will be provided alongside community-based programmes to support the overall enhancement of livelihood security of community members and to avoid inter and intra community tensions.

For a full description of UNHCR's programme see its Plan of Operation for Voluntary Repatriation and Reintegration.

2.4 Non-displaced, war-affected population in areas of resettlement

Non-displaced, war-affected populations living in areas of resettlement may receive benefits in the resettlement process similar to that of unregistered IDPs (see Section 2.2 above).

It is envisaged that in areas yet to be declared safe for resettlement, this population group may be provided with humanitarian assistance by non-governmental and international organisations according to need and where access is feasible.

2.5 Ex-combatants and their dependants

2.5.1 Adult ex-combatants

When disarmed, demobilised and discharged, ex-combatants are provided with a transportation allowance to enable them to travel to their area of reintegration by the National Committee for Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (NCDDR). Upon registration at the provincial reintegration offices of NCDDR, the ex-combatants receive reinsertion benefits, which are to assist the ex-combatants and their families in resettlement.

Through the reintegration programme of NCDDR and other agencies, ex-combatants are supported by training and employment activities. Such activities provide a bridge for ex-combatants re-entering civilian life.

In addition, ex-combatants and their dependents as they reintegrate into communities will benefit from community-based initiatives supporting the rehabilitation and reconstruction of basic services and the resuscitation of the local economy. A diagram depicting the interface between resettlement and reintegration is presented in Annex 7.

2.5.2 Children with the fighting forces

The majority of ex-child combatants are separated children and thus, as with all separated children, will be provided interim care support, alternative care and family tracing and reunification support⁹.

⁹ NCDDR. Strategic Framework for Reintegration of Child Ex-combatants. June 25, 2001.

NCDDR reintegration assistance provided to child ex-combatants aims to:

1. Address immediate post demobilisation needs and continue the reunification of the child with their family;
2. Ensure access to education, training, family mediation and health;
3. Participation as active members of their family and home communities; and,
4. Improve their perception of personal security through protection and increased awareness.

It is envisaged that such assistance would allow children to develop in a family and friendly community environment and contribute to the future development of the country.

NCDDR would initiate investment in the education of child ex-combatants. NCDDR views the Community Education Investment Programme (CEIP) as a critical element for the reintegration of these children back into their families and communities. This programme not only benefits children from the fighting forces, but also other children in the targeted schools. This is an important component of facilitating social reintegration as well as forming the basis for access to future economic opportunities. It is envisaged that as part of reintegration assistance, the child ex-combatants would be included in the larger education framework established by the Ministry of Education development programmes.

In addition, these child ex-combatants (over 15 years of age) participating in the non-formal skill programmes would receive assistance via the Training and Employment Programme (TEP).

2.6 Vulnerable groups

Within all of the beneficiary groups presented above, there are a number of vulnerable groups deserving special attention during the resettlement process. These include:

- ~~///~~ Female-headed households (with no additional able-bodied persons)
- ~~///~~ Pregnant and lactating women
- ~~///~~ Separated / abducted women
- ~~///~~ Mentally and physically handicapped (including amputees and war-wounded)
- ~~///~~ Orphans
- ~~///~~ Infirm
- ~~///~~ Elderly

Female-headed households

Female-headed households face considerable challenges in returning to their resettlement areas and rebuilding their lives, particularly those who do not have extended families or able-bodied children to support them. Special attention needs to be given to them for re-establishing their basic requirements, such as shelter, rebuilding their livelihoods and protecting them from sexual violence. Agencies will be encouraged to target this group. Close monitoring by the Resettlement Working Group (see Section 3.2) of their ability to cope during this transitional process is crucial.

Separated / abducted women

Women have been the victims of abduction and sexual abuse throughout the course of the war. Separated from their families and communities, these women, the majority of whom have young children, are in need of special attention, which not

only assists them in finding their families, but also addresses their social reintegration. Sensitisation, counselling and community-based initiatives will target these women in their resettlement.

The disabled

This includes, for example, both civilians and ex-combatants that have been disabled as a result of mutilation or war-wounds, and other disabled groups requiring special assistance, such as the blind and polio victims.

Assistance to the war-wounded and amputees consists primarily of the essential tasks of physical reconstruction, such as through the use of prostheses and physiotherapy, as well as psychological rehabilitation. A key challenge now being faced is in supporting this vulnerable group to become reintegrated back into their communities and re-engaged in meaningful economic activities. The greatest challenge will be faced in rural areas. Special programmes need to be developed alongside the resettlement programme to support this transitional process. It is envisaged that the committee set up for co-ordinating assistance to the disabled will develop such programmes and inter-link these with those presented below. It is recommended that this committee remain in close communication with the Resettlement Working Groups (see section 3.2).

In the Western Area, amputees and war-wounded located within IDP camps are being targeted for entering onto low-cost housing schemes as and when they become available. This will operate as a pilot for supporting this vulnerable group in other parts of the country.

It is envisaged that a number of vulnerable people eligible to receive targeted resettlement assistance will not be in an appropriate condition to enter into the resettlement process when their area of origin is declared safe for resettlement. The Resettlement Working Group will decide, in cooperation with the Camp Management Agency or other mandated agencies, when such persons will enter the resettlement process on a case-by-case basis.

3. Targeted Resettlement Assistance

3.1 Safety for resettlement

3.1.1 Assessment and declaration of safe areas for resettlement

The GoSL will only facilitate resettlement into an area when it is deemed that the area in question is sufficiently safe to allow for the protection of resettling IDPs or returnees.

To assess whether an area can be declared safe, a two-tiered system has been developed at the District and National-levels. This consists of:

- ~~///~~ District Resettlement Assessment Committee¹⁰
- ~~///~~ National Resettlement Assessment Committee

The membership of these two committees is as follows:

¹⁰ The Western Area will have its own Resettlement Assessment Committee, which will function similarly to that of the district-level committees.

District Resettlement Assessment Committee¹¹	National Resettlement Assessment Committee
Regional Co-ordinator / District Supervisor, NCRRR (Chair)	Commissioner, NCRRR (Chair)
District Officer (Ministry of Local Government)	Representative, Ministry of Internal Affairs
Officer-Commanding District - Police	Representative, Ministry of Rural Development & Local Government
NCDDR Representative	National Security Adviser
Chairman, Council of Paramount chiefs	Executive Secretary, NCDDR
UNAMSIL	Inspector General, SLP
UNHCR	Chief of Defence Staff, SLA
UNAMSIL Human Rights	UNAMSIL
UNOCHA	UNHCR
IDP Representative	UNAMSIL Human Rights
	UNOCHA
	Chairman, Western Area Council for Displaced Persons

The principal responsibility of these committees is to assess whether each chiefdom within the country is sufficiently safe to allow for the facilitated resettlement of displaced persons, whether IDPs, refugees or displaced returnees.

The Regional Co-ordinator, NCRRR, will convene each District Resettlement Assessment Committee within the Provinces on a monthly basis prior to the monthly meeting of the National Resettlement Assessment Committee. For each District Resettlement Assessment Committee within the Province, the security of all chiefdoms will be assessed using the criteria developed by the National Resettlement Assessment Committee (see below and Annex 4). When the district-level committee has reached agreement that a particular chiefdom is safe for the resettlement of IDPs, displaced returnees and facilitated repatriation of refugees, the Regional Coordinator of NCRRR, as Chair, will recommend this to the National Resettlement Assessment Committee for approval. When the National Resettlement Assessment Committee has reached agreement that a particular chiefdom can be declared safe, it is the responsibility of the Commissioner of NCRRR to ensure this message is made public. It is upon this decision that displaced persons emanating from this area will enter onto the resettlement programme described below.

The District Resettlement Assessment Committees in newly accessible areas should meet within one month after the end date of disarmament as stipulated at tripartite meetings of GoSL, UNAMSIL and RUF.

For a chiefdom to be deemed and declared safe for the facilitated resettlement of displaced people the following criteria should be taken into consideration:

- ☞ Absence of hostilities
- ☞ Ongoing disarmament
- ☞ Law and order maintenance by the police
- ☞ Security maintenance by UNAMSIL

¹¹ The membership of the Western Area Resettlement Assessment Committee is slightly different to the District Resettlement Assessment Committee, though having the same mandate. These differences represent the different administrative structures present in the Western Area. The Terms of Reference and membership are presented in Annex 3.

- ☞ Unhindered access for humanitarian agencies and NCRRR staff
- ☞ Sizeable spontaneous return of displaced persons (IDPs or refugees)
- ☞ Presence of district and local administration

The Terms of Reference for the Resettlement Assessment Committees and the resettlement assessment criteria are presented in Annexes 1-4.

3.1.2 Policy and procedures for non-accessible areas

Those registered IDPs and displaced returnees whose chiefdom of origin is deemed unsafe for resettlement will retain the right to accommodation and support services within a camp environment or host community.

3.1.3 Spontaneous resettlement to insecure areas

As stated above, the GoSL will not facilitate resettlement into insecure areas until such time as the area in question has been declared safe for resettlement. Registered IDPs spontaneously resettle into insecure areas will not benefit from any targeted resettlement assistance.

It is envisaged that in areas yet to be declared safe for resettlement, this population group may be provided with humanitarian assistance by non-governmental and international organisations according to need and where access is feasible.

Like the non-displaced, war-affected population in areas of resettlement (see Section 2.4) and unregistered IDPs (see Section 2.2), spontaneously resettling IDPs may benefit from community-based interventions being provided when their area of resettlement is declared safe. This could include, for example, the potential opportunity for entering onto seeds and tools projects and/or other employment-based safety net / income generating schemes, as well as gaining benefits from community-based initiatives supporting the rehabilitation and reconstruction of basic services and the resuscitation of the local economy.

3.2 Resettlement planning

A Resettlement Working Group will be formed under the auspices of the Inter-Agency Forum operating within each District and the Western Area to plan and co-ordinate resettlement activities. The membership¹² for this working group should include:

Resettlement Working Group
District Supervisor, NCRRR (Chair)
Reintegration Officer, NCDDR
UN OCHA Representative
UNHCR Representative
UNAMSIL Civil Affairs Representative
Senior representative of key operational food aid agency
Senior representative of key operational transportation agency
Senior representative of key operational camp management agency
Senior representative of key agency, agriculture sector
Senior representative of key agency, wat-san sector
Senior representative of key agency, health sector
Senior representative of key agency, education sector

¹² For the different sectors, representation could come from a GoSL line ministry, a UN agency or an NGO, as decided by the local sector coordination group.

Senior representative of key agency, shelter/NFI sector
Senior representative of key child protection agency
Representative of IDPs

If not represented by an agency already included in the above, there is a need to include a key agency undertaking **food security monitoring** within the District / Western Area.

The aims of the Resettlement Working Groups are:

- ~~✍~~ To develop comprehensive operational plans and coordinate the phase down of assistance in camps and host communities and the resettlement of displaced persons returning to the District
- ~~✍~~ To integrate resettlement and reintegration programmes for IDPs, refugees and ex-combatants

3.2.1 Planning and co-ordination for the phase-down of assistance in camps and host communities

The responsibilities of the Resettlement Working Groups¹³ in regard to phase down include:

1. Close liaison with the Resettlement Assessment Committees regarding chiefdoms that have been declared safe for resettlement of displaced persons in IDP camps, temporary settlements and host communities
2. Information sensitisation campaign for phase down and resettlement
3. Inform camp management and other agencies of the procedures and timelines for the phasing -down of food aid to displaced persons entering into the resettlement programme
4. Consolidate planning figures for phase -down and resettlement¹⁴
5. Planning and coordination of the consolidation of IDP camps and temporary settlements as beneficiaries enter the resettlement process. This will include the dismantling of booths of resettling people and, where feasible, the relocation of remaining displaced people from unsafe areas into a smaller number of camps to allow for the closure of others.
6. Planning for the continued provision of humanitarian aid and support services to those displaced persons from areas yet to be declared safe
7. To inform the other Resettlement Working Groups of the indicative number of displaced persons that are to resettle in their District
8. To monitor and evaluate the phase-down process
9. To inform the Resettlement Steering Committee and Inter-Agency Forums of the status and experience of the phase -down process.

3.2.2 Resettlement planning and co-ordination

The responsibilities of the Resettlement Working Groups in regard to the resettlement programme include:

¹³ The Resettlement Steering Committee (see Annex 5) will provide special focus and support to phase-down in the Western Area due to the complexities involved.

¹⁴ This information will be consolidated through information provided by NCRRR, OCHA, food pipeline agencies, UNHCR and other agencies. Actual entrants onto the resettlement programme (IDPs and returnees) will be monitored by an information system, which is to be set up and managed by the Sierra Leone Information System (SLIS)

1. Identify, plan and coordinate the distribution of resettlement “start-up” packages at the designated drop off points;
2. To inform the Resettlement Working Group in the District from which IDPs or displaced returnees are departing or the country from which refugees are repatriating of the system in place for supporting displaced persons as they arrive in their resettlement areas. This information will then form the basis of the information and sensitisation campaign within the area of departure;
3. To co-ordinate with the Resettlement Working Group in the District / Western Area from which displaced persons are departing of visits of these people to their resettlement areas so that they can inform camp or host community populations of the support mechanisms that have been put in place for their resettlement. This may also include the organisation of visits by Paramount Chiefs to camps or host communities to provide further confidence to displaced persons about to enter the resettlement process;
4. To inform chiefdom-level officials of the declaration of safety for resettlement and expected numbers that may return;
5. To assess critical gaps in basic service provision within each area of resettlement and prioritise how these are to be addressed to ensure basic coverage within a reasonable timeframe¹⁵;
6. To explore the opportunities for absorbing resettling displaced persons into seeds and tools programmes and/or other income generating initiatives;
7. Encouraging the development of employment-based safety net schemes (e.g. food-for-work, agriculture, public works schemes, shelter programmes);
8. To ensure that a system is in place to monitor the food security and nutritional situation within resettlement areas. Information emanating from the monitoring system should be used for recommending further support mechanisms for vulnerable groups, whether returnees, resettling IDPs or existing resident populations;
9. To monitor and evaluate the resettlement process to ensure that people return in safety and dignity. This will include ensuring that appropriate mechanisms and measures are in place to respond to any specific problems that may be encountered during resettlement. This may relate, for example, to the protection of resettling or resident populations or to the resolution of property or other disputes¹⁶.

The Resettlement Working Group will act as the overall co-ordination body for the planning and implementation of resettlement for each District. It will inform the Inter-Agency Forum at the district and provincial level about the status of the resettlement process and report to the national-level Resettlement Steering Committee (see Annex 5). NCRRR will also convey this information to the District and Provincial Recovery Committees. The Resettlement Steering Committee will in turn report to the Consultative Forum.

¹⁵ This will be assessed by each of the relevant sectors, which can also be supported by NCRRR's field monitors and DRROs.

¹⁶ For example, use may be made of Housing Committees at the local-level for resolving cases in which houses of returning populations have been occupied. Such committees have already been initiated by UNAMSIL Civil Affairs and comprise the Senior District Officer, NCRRR, local community leaders, representatives of ex-combatant groups, representatives of the IDP or returnee community and UNAMSIL Civil Affairs.

The setting up of these Working Groups is not intended to duplicate existing co-ordination committees, such as the sectoral committees and inter-agency forums, rather it is to act as a focal point into which existing committees can both provide inputs and co-ordinate the implementation of their sector responsibilities contained within the Resettlement Strategy.

The Terms of Reference for the Resettlement Working Groups is presented in full detail in Annex 5.

3.3 Information & sensitisation

A clear and coherent information and sensitisation campaign is a crucial component of the resettlement process. Lack of clarity or consistency in information provision runs the danger of exposing government and non-government staff to security risks and of impeding the smooth flow of the resettlement process.

The central aim of the information and sensitisation campaign is to ensure that the wider public, particularly all IDPs and returnees, are informed about:

- ~~///~~ Safety status of their intended resettlement area
- ~~///~~ Procedures for the phasing-down of IDP camps and entry onto the resettlement programme as presented in the Resettlement Strategy
- ~~///~~ Entitlements and support services provided within the resettlement programme
- ~~///~~ Procedures and designated areas for accessing entitlements

The information campaign is the responsibility of the Information and Sensitisation Unit of NCRRR, which will work closely with the Resettlement Working Groups. The campaign will make use of existing information dissemination and consultation mechanisms within the camps (co-ordinated with camp management agencies) and the wider communities, making use of indigenous information networks at the chiefdom-level for supporting resettlement. The use of other media, such as radio, will also be employed.

3.4 Phasing down of assistance in camps and host communities

3.4.1 Entry onto the resettlement programme

As indicated on the registration and verification lists of NCRRR and Food Pipeline Agencies' and supported by the UN OHCHA census, all registered IDPs and displaced returnees originating from a newly declared safe chiefdom will automatically enter the resettlement process. This will be indicated during the final food distribution in IDP camps, temporary settlements and host communities, when a line will be marked across each ration card to signify that the household has entered the resettlement process.

The following table presents the entitlements of registered IDP and displaced returnees according to the security status of their chiefdom of origin.

Category	Security Status of chiefdom of origin of registered IDPs and displaced returnees	Entitlements
A	UNSAFE	?? Retain the right to stay in an IDP camp, temporary settlement or host community, receiving all appropriate services
B	CHIEFDOM OF ORIGIN DECLARED SAFE	?? Retain the right to accommodation in an IDP camp, temporary settlement or host community for a further two months following the declaration of the area as safe for resettlement, receiving all appropriate services. After this period, the displaced persons from the newly declared safe area will be expected to enter the resettlement process and leave the camp, temporary settlement or host community ?? Eligible for transportation assistance to area of return in the newly declared safe chiefdoms. ?? Eligible to receive two months of resettlement food and non-food assistance. These food and non-food rations will be distributed in bulk from centralised distribution points within the chiefdom of resettlement at a scheduled time once the resettlement process has begun. Normally these rations will be given at one of the designated drop-off points used for transport assistance.

3.5 Targeted 'start-up' assistance

3.5.1 Transportation of registered IDPs

Similar to the support provided by UNHCR for returnees under assisted repatriation, all registered IDPs and displaced returnees will be provided transport assistance to a place in close proximity to their area of resettlement.

Registered IDPs and displaced returnees entering the resettlement process will register for transportation support to one of the designated drop-off points of their choice. Transport registration will be undertaken by the transport management agency with support from NCRRR.

The transport management agency will allow IDPs and displaced returnees to take as much baggage as they can carry for the resettlement journey. Medical checks will be carried out prior to transportation to ensure that all passengers are medically fit to travel. The chronically ill, pregnant women about to deliver and any passenger whose health may be jeopardised by the journey will not be authorised to travel. For journeys over four hours, a meal will be provided en route by the transport management agency.

Designated drop-off points will be identified in areas of resettlement by NCRRR and the transport management agency in consultation with local communities. These will

take into account where it is anticipated people will be resettling to. Resettlement packages will be distributed at these points and basic overnight accommodation, water and wet or dry feeding will be provided where necessary. Efforts will be made to ensure these areas do not become makeshift encampments. Secondary transport to places in closer proximity to their area of return will be provided where it is deemed appropriate and where the necessary resources are available to do this.

A logistics plan will be drawn up by the transport management agency in consultation with NCRRR and all other stakeholders including the distribution agencies and local communities. The plan will also include information on drop off points and times from the place of departure. The NCRRR Information and Sensitisation Unit, supported by camp management agencies, will use this for informing registered IDPs and displaced returnees. There may exist an opportunity for resettling IDPs to make use of way stations that UNHCR may establish for the repatriation of refugees.

The logistics plan will be presented to the respective Resettlement Working Groups.

3.5.2 Resettlement food rations

When registered IDPs and returnees enter into the resettlement programme (see Section 3.4.1), they are eligible to receive a two-month food ration. The food ration will be collected in bulk from a centralised distribution points within the chiefdom of resettlement.

The standardised procedures for the distribution of resettlement food rations are:

- ?? Centralised distribution points will be at the designated drop-off points within each chiefdom of resettlement.
- ?? To collect resettlement food rations, the IDP or displaced returnee will turn in his/her crossed ration card. This card will be clearly marked with the letter "R" to indicate that the household has received his/her resettlement ration. It will then be invalid for the collection of any further food rations.
- ?? IDP and displaced returnee cards will be recognised and honoured by all food aid agencies

Food pipeline agencies in their areas of operation will organise the transport and distribution of resettlement food rations to the designated locations.

3.5.3 Non-food package

The following non-food items have been identified by the NFI Technical Sub-Committee as appropriate for the "start-up" resettlement package for a household¹⁷.

¹⁷ It is acknowledged that there may be a slight variance in the packages offered by the different NFI pipeline agencies.

NON-FOOD ITEMS	
Item	Quantity
Kitchen set	
☞ Cook pots	2 (1 big, 1 small)
☞ Plates	5
☞ Cups	5
☞ Spoons (dining)	5
☞ Spoons (cooking)	2
☞ Knife	1
Lantern	1
Bucket / Jerry can	1
Mats	2
Blankets	2
Soap	4

These commodities will be provided to registered IDPs and returnees. This will be a standard package irrespective of the size of the household. The distribution of the NFI package will occur at the same time and place as the resettlement food ration.

It is envisaged that in many of the chiefdoms, the distribution of these packages will be carried out in cooperation with food pipeline agencies given their logistical capacity. The decision for which is to be made by the Resettlement Working Groups. A consolidated quantification of NFI items is required for each District for assessing stockpile shortfalls in order to plan, finance and procure necessary requirements. It is envisaged that a number of agencies will act as a pipeline for the procurement of these commodities, from which distribution agencies can draw down from for their areas of operation.

3.5.4 Shelter

The following shelter item will form part of the resettlement package for resettling, registered IDP and returnee households (except those who will access any low-cost housing benefit). This will form another constituent part of the NFI package.

Item	Quantity
Plastic sheeting	1 (4meters by 5meters)

This item will address only immediate shelter requirements in resettlement areas. Ways should be found to ensure that those who cannot build on their own will be provided assistance to do so.

Further shelter assistance may be provided later through community-based reconstruction projects, or link into existing or planned projects being implemented by partner agencies.

As determined by the Resettlement Working Group, registered IDPs whose home of origin is in the Western Area and large urban settlements, additional shelter support may be provided where feasible until low-cost housing opportunities are available.

3.6 Phasing out and consolidation of IDP camps

As areas are declared safe and the resettlement process commences, the number of registered IDPs eligible to remain in IDP camps, due their chiefdom of origin having not yet been declared safe, will be reduced. Plans for the consolidation and/or phase-out of the camps within the Western Area and Districts are to be prepared by the Resettlement Working Groups after each successive resettlement phase occurs. The overall goal will be to reduce the number of camps, so the camp areas can be returned to their former use. Efforts will be made to avoid the possible occupation of such camps by other non-displaced persons. This plan is to include the relocation of remaining eligible IDPs to alternative campsites if their camp is to be closed. A similar process will also be used for displaced returnees in temporary settlements.

In the Western Area, where there is a chronic shortage of low cost housing and where strict building restrictions are in place, alternative facilities may be offered to former IDPs and long-term residents of camps on a temporary basis who are faced with the problem of homelessness once certain camps are consolidated and others phased down.

In the consolidation exercise, there is a need to consider the negative impacts that may ensue from this as a result of fragmenting displaced community structures potentially removing people's coping strategies.

4. Community-based Resettlement Assistance

4.1 Basic service provision

The provision of basic services within areas of resettlement is aimed for as far as possible. This includes access to primary health care and referral systems, potable water, sanitation facilities and education. Given the widespread destruction and debilitation of many of these services during the war and the lack of access that governmental and non-governmental agencies have had to many areas due to insecurity, not all of these basic services will be operating within the specific place of resettlement at the time of arrival.

The Resettlement Working Group, with the support of its constituent sector committees and operational agencies, will assess the current basic services operating within resettlement areas. Critical gaps will be identified and drawn-up into a prioritised listing of interventions. Efforts should be made to restore basic service coverage¹⁸ within a reasonable timeframe, so as to avoid further dislocation of the resettling population.

Information gathered on the status of basic services will be entered into a management information system to support targeting and monitoring. This will be managed by the SLIS and be inter-linked with information on the broader recovery process.

In the case of the health sector, The Ministry of Health and Sanitation, in association with the national-level health technical sub-committee, will inform the Resettlement Working Groups of any changes towards cost-recovery that are put into place.

¹⁸ As stipulated by national policy and standards of line ministries.

In the case of education, free schooling will be provided for grades 1-6, following the national policy. In the case of higher levels of education, if fees have been paid in one part of the country, they can be transferred to the area of resettlement.

4.2 Livelihood start-up assistance

Given that resettling IDPs and returnees will be only provided with a food ration for two months from their time of arrival in their resettlement area, many will face a food gap before the first harvest or, in non-agricultural areas, before their livelihoods are in such a position as to be free standing. As a result, employment-based safety net schemes may be provided to support them during this initial period. These could include public works schemes in which food or other remuneration are received; for example, the reconstruction of roads and food-for-agriculture activities.

The Resettlement Working Groups, within which food aid and agricultural agencies are represented, in association with SLRA will assess opportunities for initiating such schemes. These schemes should be targeted at the most vulnerable within the community and be open to all beneficiary types. Particular attention should be given to female-headed households and other especially vulnerable groups when designing these schemes.

4.2.1 Agricultural start-up support

Resettling IDPs and returnees who are re-engaging agricultural livelihoods may have the opportunity to receive seeds and tools. It is envisaged that this will tie into the seeds and tools distribution for other war-affected populations.

Special attention will need to be provided to those registered IDPs resettling into areas defined as non-priority areas according to chiefdom vulnerability studies for seeds and tools programmes, i.e. those chiefdoms in which seeds and tools programmes may not be occurring. The representative of the sector committee for agriculture within the Resettlement Working Group will need to assess with relevant agencies how agricultural start-up support can be provided in such instances. Attention will also need to be given to those returning at times outside of the predominant seeds and tools interventions, but at which more limited agricultural activities can occur.

In addition to standard seeds and tools assistance, there are other support measures that can be provided to support agricultural and livelihood start-up. These include small-scale cash crop plantation rehabilitation, small livestock promotion and fishing. It is envisaged that these will be predominantly community-based activities as described in Section 3.9.

4.2.2 Non-Farm start-up livelihood support in urban areas

The most vulnerable groups in urban areas will need to be monitored by the Resettlement Working Groups to see how they manage to cope during this transitional period. Although employment-based schemes, such as skills training and youth employment projects, may be made available for supporting vulnerable households, some vulnerable groups will not be able to benefit from these due to disabilities or lack of sufficient able-bodied persons within households. In such cases, other non-farm, start-up livelihood support measures may be explored to offer this group alternative safety nets / means of subsistence.

4.2.3 General start-up Livelihood Support

IDPs and returnees may also benefit from targeted employment-based safety net schemes, such as food, cash or NFI for work. It is expected that these will be provided during the first agricultural season. After this time, it is envisaged that food security monitoring in resettlement areas will clarify whether further food assistance is required.

Potential activities for these schemes include:

- ?? Agriculture
- ?? Road rehabilitation
- ?? Shelter reconstruction / construction
- ?? Water and sanitation
- ?? Community infrastructure rehabilitation

In the case of food-for-work schemes, Sierra Leone Food Pipeline Agencies' food-for-work norms will be followed.

4.3 Community-based reconstruction and rehabilitation

Following resettlement, continued support may be available in the form of community-based reconstruction and rehabilitation activities that enhance reconciliation and livelihood development. Such activities may include:

- ~~///~~ Agriculture fisheries and livestock rehabilitation
- ~~///~~ Shelter
- ~~///~~ Rehabilitation of community infrastructure
- ~~///~~ Re-establishment of essential services
- ~~///~~ Promotion of re conciliation
- ~~///~~ Small enterprise promotion and vocational training schemes
- ~~///~~ Capacity building of local organisations

As community-based activities, the participation of all members of the community in their development and implementation is a pre-requisite for building both the community and households' livelihood security. Such activities will be a cornerstone for supporting the resettlement and reintegration of IDPs, refugees, ex-combatants and their dependents into the local economy and society.

Support programmes for these activities include, for example:

- ~~///~~ Emergency Recovery Support Fund of the Community Reintegration and Rehabilitation Programme (NCRRR)
- ~~///~~ Training and Employment Programme of the Community Reintegration and Rehabilitation Programme (NCDDR)
- ~~///~~ Sierra Leone Rehabilitation and Resettlement Support Programme (EC)
- ~~///~~ Social And Poverty Alleviation Programme (NCRRR)
- ~~///~~ Support to Reintegration & Resettlement Programme (NCRRR)
- ~~///~~ Integrated Rural Development Programme (NCRRR)
- ~~///~~ Reintegration Projects (UNHCR)
- ~~///~~ Community Reintegration Programme (DFID)
- ~~///~~ UNAMSIL Trust Fund
- ~~///~~ Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Programmes of NGOs, international organisation, UN agencies and line ministries

Given the scale of rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance required, the targeting and co-ordination of these activities will be essential if the maximum impact is to be achieved. The Sierra Leone Information System will be used for monitoring reconstruction and rehabilitation activities and identifying priority vulnerable areas and critical gaps that exist both sectorally and geographically. Information generated by the SLIS will be made fully available to line ministries, partner agencies and donors.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

5.1 Management information system

The Sierra Leone Information System housed in OCHA will act as a focal point for managing information pertaining to the resettlement process.

5.2 Monitoring of the resettlement process.

The Resettlement Steering Committee will monitor the overall resettlement process nationally. The Resettlement Working Groups will monitor the resettlement process within their respective Districts. This will include ensuring that adequate measures are put in place at each stage of the resettlement process.

Periodic assessments of how resettling populations are managing to cope in their areas of resettlement will be undertaken by the Resettlement Working Groups, which will also coordinate the response to critical issues identified.

The safety and protection of resettling IDPs and returnees are to be monitored by the District and National Resettlement Assessment Committees (see Section 3.1 above). This is to be supported by regular on the ground monitoring by the Field Monitors of NCRRR.

Annex 1 National Resettlement Assessment Committee

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction

The Government of Sierra Leone, through the National Commission for Reconstruction, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (NCRRR), is currently engaged in the planning for the facilitated resettlement of displaced persons back into their communities. One of the prerequisites set for NCRRR to facilitate their entry into the resettlement programme is that there is sufficient security in their areas of resettlement so that they can start rebuilding their livelihoods in safety and with dignity.

There is therefore a need to have a mechanism by which NCRRR can assess the safety of each chiefdom within the country so that a decision can be made as to whether displaced people should enter into the resettlement process or continue to be provided with humanitarian aid until such a time as their resettlement area is deemed safe. The Government of Sierra Leone will only facilitate resettlement into an area when it is deemed that the area in question is sufficiently safe to allow for the protection of returnees.

The mechanism devised by NCRRR for achieving this is through Resettlement Assessment Committees. These will operate at the district and national level. This is the Terms of Reference for the National Resettlement Assessment Committee.

Overview

The district level committees will meet on a monthly basis to assess the safety of the chiefdoms within their jurisdiction. Their assessment will be based on a national-level set of objective criteria developed by the National Resettlement Assessment Committee. The District Resettlement Assessment Committee will inform, via the provincial headquarters, the National Resettlement Assessment Committee of those chiefdoms deemed suitably safe. The responsibility of the National Resettlement Assessment Committee is to assess the recommendations made and either endorse or reject them. If the safety of a chiefdom is endorsed, the National Resettlement Assessment, through its chairperson, will make this decision public and those displaced persons wishing to resettle in such a chiefdom will enter into the resettlement programme.

Aim

- ✍* To assess whether each chiefdom within the country is sufficiently safe to allow for the facilitated resettlement of displaced persons

Membership

National Resettlement Assessment Committee
Commissioner, NCRRR (Chair)
Representative, Ministry of Internal Affairs
Representative, Ministry of Local Government
National Security Adviser Executive Secretary, NCDDR
Inspector General, SLP
Chief of Defence Staff, SLA
Representative, UNAMSIL
UNHCR
UNAMSIL Human Rights
UN OCHA
Chairman, Western Area Council for Displaced Persons

Activities

The chairperson will call a meeting of the National Resettlement Assessment Committee each month at a specified location.

The National Resettlement Assessment Committee will undertake the following activities:

- ~~///~~ Develop a set of objective criteria through which the Resettlement Assessment Committees at national and district level will assess the safety of chiefdoms for resettlement
- ~~///~~ Review the outcomes and recommendations made by District Resettlement Assessment Committees
- ~~///~~ Endorse or reject the recommendations made by the District Resettlement Assessment Committees as to the chiefdoms they have deemed safe for resettlement.
- ~~///~~ In the case of rejection, the National Resettlement Assessment Committee should inform the District Resettlement Assessment Committee as to why they have rejected their recommendation or make requests for further information to support their decision-making
- ~~///~~ In the case of endorsement, it is the responsibility of the chairperson to inform the District Resettlement Assessment Committees and Resettlement Working Groups of their decisions. This information should also be made public.

Time frame

It is envisaged that the National Resettlement Assessment Committee will continue to meet until such a time as all chiefdoms have been declared safe and that, following this, a sufficient period of time has elapsed for the committee to have confidence that resettlement has occurred both safely and securely.

Annex 2 District Resettlement Assessment Committee

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction

The Government of Sierra Leone, through the National Commission for Reconstruction, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (NCRRR), is currently engaged in the planning for the facilitated resettlement of displaced persons back into their communities. One of the prerequisites set for NCRRR to facilitate their entry into the resettlement programme is that there is sufficient security in their areas of resettlement so that they can start rebuilding their livelihoods in safety and with dignity.

There is therefore a need to have a mechanism by which NCRRR can assess the safety of each chiefdom within the country so that a decision can be made as to whether displaced people should enter into the resettlement process or continue to be provided with humanitarian aid until such a time as their resettlement area is deemed safe. The Government of Sierra Leone will only facilitate resettlement into an area when it is deemed that the area in question is sufficiently safe to allow for the protection of returnees.

The mechanism devised by NCRRR for achieving this is through Resettlement Assessment Committees. These will operate at the district and national level. This is the Terms of Reference for the District Resettlement Assessment Committee.

Overview

The district level committees will meet on a monthly basis to assess the safety of the chiefdoms within their jurisdiction. Their assessment will be based on a national-level set of objective criteria developed by the National Resettlement Assessment Committee. The District Resettlement Assessment Committee will inform, via the provincial headquarters, the National Resettlement Assessment Committee of those chiefdoms deemed suitably safe. The responsibility of the National Resettlement Assessment Committee is to assess the recommendations made and either endorse or reject them. If the safety of a chiefdom is endorsed, the National Resettlement Assessment, through its chairperson, will make this decision public and those displaced persons wishing to resettle in such a chiefdom will enter into the resettlement programme.

Aim of the District Resettlement Assessment Committee

- ✍* To assess whether each chiefdom within the district is sufficiently safe to allow for the facilitated resettlement of displaced persons

Membership

District Resettlement Assessment Committee
Regional Co-ordinator / District Supervisor, NCRRR (Chair)
District officer (Ministry of Local Government)
Officer-Commanding District - Police
NCDDR Representative Chairman, Council of Paramount Chiefs
UNAMSIL Representative
UNHCR
UNAMSIL Human Rights
UN OCHA
IDP Representative

Activities

The chairperson will call a meeting of the District Resettlement Assessment Committee each month at a specified location.

Using the objective assessment criteria developed by the National Resettlement Assessment Committee, the District Resettlement Assessment Committee will undertake the following for each chiefdom within their jurisdiction:

- ☞ Assess whether each chiefdom is sufficiently safe to allow for the facilitated resettlement of displaced persons
- ☞ Upon consensus, to recommend to the National Resettlement Assessment Committee those chiefdoms which are deemed sufficiently safe for resettlement
- ☞ For those chiefdoms that have already been declared safe, to reassess whether the criteria set are being upheld and to assess whether those displaced persons resettling within the chiefdom under the Government of Sierra Leone's resettlement programme are doing so in safety. If there are grounds to believe that the safety of resettling displaced persons is in jeopardy, to inform the National Resettlement Assessment Committee of these.

Timeframe

The District Resettlement Assessment Committees in newly accessible areas should meet within one month from the end date of disarmament as stipulated at tripartite meetings of GoSL, UNAMSIL and RUF.

It is envisaged that the District Resettlement Assessment Committee will continue to meet until such a time as all chiefdoms in the District have been declared safe and that, following this, a sufficient period of time has elapsed for the committee to have confidence that resettlement in the District has occurred both safely and securely.

Annex 3 W. Area Resettlement Assessment Committee

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction

The Government of Sierra Leone, through the National Commission for Reconstruction, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (NCRRR), is currently engaged in the planning for the facilitated resettlement of displaced persons back into their communities. One of the prerequisites set for NCRRR to facilitate their entry into the resettlement programme is that there is sufficient security in their areas of resettlement so that they can start rebuilding their livelihoods in safety and with dignity.

There is therefore a need to have a mechanism by which NCRRR can assess the safety of each chiefdom within the country so that a decision can be made as to whether displaced people should enter into the resettlement process or continue to be provided with humanitarian aid until such a time as their resettlement area is deemed safe. The Government of Sierra Leone will only facilitate resettlement into an area when it is deemed that the area in question is sufficiently safe to allow for the protection of returnees.

The mechanism devised by NCRRR for achieving this is through Resettlement Assessment Committees. These will operate at the district and national level. The Western Area will also have its own Resettlement Assessment Committee. This will act in a similar way to the district-level committees, though the unit of assessment will be the entire Western Area rather than chiefdoms, as is the case with the district-level committees. This is the Terms of Reference for the Western Resettlement Assessment Committee.

Overview

The Western Area Resettlement Assessment Committee will meet on a monthly basis to assess the safety of the Western Area. Their assessment will be based on a national-level set of objective criteria developed by the National Resettlement Assessment Committee. The Western Area Resettlement Assessment Committee will inform, via the committee's chairperson, the National Resettlement Assessment Committee whether it deems the Western Area suitably safe for resettlement. The responsibility of the National Resettlement Assessment Committee is to assess the recommendations made and either endorse or reject them. If endorsed, the National Resettlement Assessment, through its chairperson, will make this decision public and those displaced persons wishing to resettle into the Western Area will enter into the resettlement programme.

Aim of the Western Area Resettlement Assessment Committee

- To assess whether the Western Area is sufficiently safe to allow for the facilitated resettlement of displaced persons

Membership

Western Area Resettlement Assessment Committee
Western Area Co-ordinator, NCRRR (Chair)
Representative, Ministry of Local Government
Representative / Inspector General of Police
NCDDR Representative
Representative / Chairman, Committee of Management, Freetown City Council
UNAMSIL Representative
UNHCR
UNAMSIL Human Rights
UN OCHA
IDP Representative (NCDP)

Activities

The chairperson will call a meeting of the Western Area Resettlement Assessment Committee each month at a specified location.

Using the objective assessment criteria developed by the National Resettlement Assessment Committee, the Western Area Resettlement Assessment Committee will undertake the following:

- ✍ Assess whether the Western Area is sufficiently safe to allow for the facilitated resettlement of displaced persons
- ✍ Upon consensus, to recommend to the National Resettlement Assessment Committee whether it perceives the Western Area be deemed sufficiently safe for resettlement
- ✍ If and when declared safe, to reassess whether the criteria set are being upheld and to assess whether those displaced persons resettling within the Western Area under the Government of Sierra Leone's resettlement programme are doing so in safety. If there are grounds to believe that the safety of resettling displaced persons is in jeopardy, to inform the National Resettlement Assessment Committee of these.
- ✍ If the Western Area is deemed unsafe, to inform the National Resettlement Assessment Committee of the reasons why it does not meet the requirements set forth in the assessment criteria

It will be the responsibility of the chairperson of the Western Area Resettlement Assessment Committee to inform the National Resettlement Assessment Committees of the outcomes of the meetings.

It will then be the responsibility of the chairperson of the National Resettlement Assessment Committee to inform the Western Area Resettlement Assessment Committees of the response to their recommendations.

Time frame

It is envisaged that the Western Area Resettlement Assessment Committee will continue to meet until such a time as the Western Area has been declared safe and that, following this, a sufficient period of time has elapsed for the committee to have confidence that resettlement in the Western Area has occurred both safely and securely.

Annex 4 Resettlement Assessment Criteria

Introduction

The following set of criteria have been ratified by the National Resettlement Assessment Committee on 29th February 2000 to support the National Resettlement Assessment Committee and District Resettlement Assessment Committees determine the minimum safety requirements necessary to allow for facilitated resettlement of displaced people.

Criteria

For a chiefdom to be deemed and declared safe for the facilitated resettlement of displaced people the following criteria should be taken into consideration:

- ~~///~~ Absence of hostilities
- ~~///~~ Ongoing disarmament
- ~~///~~ Law and order maintenance by the police
- ~~///~~ Security maintenance by UNAMSIL
- ~~///~~ Unhindered access for humanitarian agencies and NCRRR staff
- ~~///~~ Sizeable spontaneous return of displaced persons (IDPs or refugees)
- ~~///~~ Presence of district and local administration

Annex 5 Resettlement Steering Committee

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction






The Resettlement Steering Committee is the national-level body supporting the policy, planning and coordination of resettlement.

Membership

Resettlement Steering Committee Group
Senior Representative, NCTRR (Chair)
Senior Representative (Reintegration), NCDDR
UN-OCHA Representative
UNHCR Senior Staff Member
UNAMSIL Civil Affairs Representative
Representative, Committee on Food Aid (CFA)
Representative, National Technical Committee on camp management
Senior representative of transportation agency
Representative, National Technical Committee on agriculture
Representative, National Technical Committee on wat-san
Representative, National Technical Committee on health
Representative, National Technical Committee on education
Representative, National Technical Committee on shelter
Representative, National Technical Committee on NFIs
Representative, National Technical Committee on child protection
Representative of IDPs

Activities

Responsibilities include:

-  To prepare and disseminate policy pertaining to resettlement. This will include ensuring that all relevant stakeholders are conversant with policy and procedures within the Resettlement Strategy
-  To support the Resettlement Working Groups in fulfilling their responsibilities. This could include the provision of policy advice in cases where problems are encountered or addressing matters of concern to other national-level bodies for their attention
-  To provide overall coordination of the resettlement process and ensure appropriate coordination exists between the various Resettlement Working Groups
-  To monitor and evaluate the resettlement process, ensuring that displaced people return in safety and dignity
-  To inform the Consultative Forum of the status of the resettlement process

Annex 6 Resettlement Working Groups

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction

A Resettlement Working Group will be formed under the auspices of the Inter-Agency Forum operating within each District and the Western Area to plan and co-ordinate resettlement activities.

Aims

- ~~☞~~ To develop comprehensive operational plans and coordinate the phase down of assistance in camps and host communities and the resettlement of displaced persons returning to the District
- ~~☞~~ To integrate resettlement and reintegration programmes for IDPs, refugees and ex-combatants

Membership

The membership¹⁹ for this working group should include:

Resettlement Working Group
District Supervisor, NCRRR (Chair)
Reintegration Officer, NCDDR
UN OCHA Representative
UNHCR Representative
UNAMSIL Civil Affairs Representative
Senior representative of key operational food aid agency
Senior representative of key operational transportation agency
Senior representative of key operational camp management agency
Senior representative of key agency, agriculture sector
Senior representative of key agency, wat-san sector
Senior representative of key agency, health sector
Senior representative of key agency, education sector
Senior representative of key agency, shelter/NFI sector
Senior representative of key child protection agency
Representative of IDPs

If not represented by an agency already included in the above, there is a need to include a key agency undertaking **food security monitoring** within the District / Western Area.

¹⁹ For the different sectors, representation could come from a GoSL line ministry, a UN agency or an NGO, as decided by the local sector coordination group.

Activities

A. Planning and co-ordination for the phase-down of assistance in camps and host communities

The responsibilities of the Resettlement Working Groups²⁰ in regard to phase down include:

1. Close liaison with the Resettlement Assessment Committees regarding chiefdoms that have been declared safe for resettlement of displaced persons in IDP camps, temporary settlements and host communities
2. Information sensitisation campaign for phase down and resettlement
3. Inform camp management and other agencies of the procedures and timelines for the phasing -down of food aid to displaced persons entering into the resettlement programme
4. Consolidate planning figures for phase -down and resettlement²¹
5. Planning and coordination of the consolidation of IDP camps and temporary settlement as beneficiaries enter the resettlement process. This will include the dismantling of booths of resettling people and, where feasible, the relocation of remaining displaced people from unsafe areas into a smaller number of camps to allow for the closure of others.
6. Planning for the continued provision of humanitarian aid and support services to those displaced persons from areas yet to be declared safe
7. To inform the other Resettlement Working Groups of the indicative number of displaced persons that are to resettle in their District
8. To monitor and evaluate the phase-down process
9. To inform the Resettlement Steering Committee and Inter-Agency Forums of the status and experience of the phase -down process.

B. Resettlement planning and co-ordination

The responsibilities of the Resettlement Working Groups in regard to the resettlement programme include:

1. Identify, plan and coordinate the distribution of resettlement “start-up” packages at the designated drop off points;
2. To inform the Resettlement Working Group in the District from which IDPs or displaced returnees are departing or the country from which refugees are repatriating of the system in place for supporting displaced persons as they arrive in their resettlement areas. This information will then form the basis of the information and sensitisation campaign within the area of departure;
3. To co-ordinate with the Resettlement Working Group in the District / Western Area from which displaced persons are departing of visits of these people to their resettlement areas so that they can inform camp or host community populations of the support mechanisms that have been put in place for their resettlement. This may also include the organisation of visits by Paramount Chiefs to camps or host communities to provide

²⁰ The Resettlement Steering Committee will provide special focus and support to phase-down in the Western Area due to the complexities involved.

²¹ This information will be consolidated through information provided by NCRRR, OCHA, food pipeline agencies, UNHCR and other agencies. Actual entrants onto the resettlement programme (IDPs and returnees) will be monitored by an information system, which is to be set up and managed by the Sierra Leone Information System (SLIS)

- further confidence to displaced persons about to enter the resettlement process;
4. To inform chiefdom-level officials of the declaration of safety for resettlement and expected numbers that may return;
 5. To assess critical gaps in basic service provision within each area of resettlement and prioritise how these are to be addressed to ensure basic coverage within a reasonable timeframe²²;
 6. To explore the opportunities for absorbing resettling displaced persons into seeds and tools programmes and/or other income generating initiatives;
 7. Encouraging the development of employment-based safety net schemes (e.g. food-for-work, agriculture, public works schemes, shelter programmes);
 8. To ensure that a system is in place to monitor the food security and nutritional situation within resettlement areas. Information emanating from the monitoring system should be used for recommending further support mechanisms for vulnerable groups, whether returnees, resettling IDPs or existing resident populations;
 9. To monitor and evaluate the resettlement process to ensure that people return in safety and dignity. This will include ensuring that appropriate mechanisms and measures are in place to respond to any specific problems that may be encountered during resettlement. This may relate, for example, to the protection of resettling or resident populations or to the resolution of property or other disputes²³.

Responsibilities of NCRRR

- ~~///~~ To chair the Resettlement Working Group
- ~~///~~ As Chair, to prepare draft plans and minutes of each meeting, as well as to act as a focal point for information dissemination
- ~~///~~ To co-ordinate and implement the information and sensitisation campaign. This will include close collaboration with IDP and returnee representatives, camp management agencies and the Resettlement Working Groups of the region in which IDPs are resettling.
- ~~///~~ To inform the Inter-Agency Forum and District and Provincial Recovery Committees of the status and developments within the resettlement process

Relationship between the Resettlement Working Groups and other coordination bodies

The setting up of this committee is not intended to duplicate existing co-ordination mechanisms, such as the sector committees and inter-agency forums, rather it is to act as a focal point into which existing committees can both provide inputs and co-ordinate the implementation of their sectoral responsibilities contained within the resettlement plan.

²² This will be assessed by each of the relevant sectors, which can also be supported by NCRRR's field monitors and DRROs.

²³ For example, use may be made of Housing Committees at the local-level for resolving cases in which houses of returning populations have been occupied. Such committees have already been initiated by UNAMSIL Civil Affairs and comprise the Senior District Officer, NCRRR, local community leaders, representatives of ex-combatant groups, representatives of the IDP or returnee community and UNAMSIL Civil Affairs.

ANNEX 7 INTERFACE BETWEEN RESETTLEMENT AND REINTEGRATION

