

Adult Survivors of Childhood Exposure to War (ASCEW)

The Forgotten and Lost Generations

by

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of involvement of Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs) in armed conflict resolution is to help to keep peace, protect innocent people, contribute to relief operations, to advocate, assist in the reconstruction and development programs. This action is always carried out through the NGOs grassroots mediation processes. This study investigates the prospective of implementing humanitarian programs to help and care for the young war child survivors of the 1991 to 2001 civil wars in Sierra Leone. To explore the intervention of the NGOs activities in the civil wars in Sierra Leone, I examined three NGOs and one governmental institution as case study organizations. The NGOs include 1) UNICEF, 2) World Vision, 3) Plan International and 4) the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, and Childrens' Affair (MSWGCA) as government agency.

The research investigates the NGOs and MSWGC's specific services provided to children during and after the war in Sierra Leone. The specific services include: 1) the NGOs' implementing policies, 2) who got served and under what conditions, 3) what models of services do they use, 4) what kind of government policies were put in place, 5) what were the challenges they faced, and 6) what were their strategies during and after the civil war in Sierra Leone. There were also ten Adult Survivors of Childhood Exposure to War (ASCEW) members interviewed to balance the NGOs' claims. Based on my literature review and findings on ASCEW, I make my recommendations to allow the organizations to move forward with their humanitarian operations.

I dedicate this work to my late father, my mother, wife, and children.

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Chapter one

1.0 Introduction

“One of the unsettling things about my journey, mentally, physically, and emotionally, was that I wasn’t sure when or where it was going to end. I didn’t know what I was going to do with my life” (Beah, 2007, p. 69).

The war fought in Sierra Leone between 1991 and 2001 engaged young children who risked their lives for their survival. The children’s involvement in the civil war violated their rights as children as stipulated in the Conventions on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The warring factions recruited children as child soldiers, they sexually abused young girls, performed amputations on children, and starved some children, while others were wounded, some were killed and some became orphans. I coined the term Adult Survivors of Childhood Exposure to War (ASCEW) to refer to these children, who were born before or during the civil war in Sierra Leone, who went through the ordeals of war and struggled on their own to survive. ASCEWs, were displaced by the war. They have grown up to live as war victims, and still lack basic services. This population of survivors is now faced with yet another nightmare of war: lack of educational provisions, employment opportunities, health care, food and shelter, clothing, and safe drinking water in their communities. I developed this acronym to reflect not just the hardships of Sierra Leone survivors, but those worldwide who were exposed to war by recruitment, amputation, sexual violence, and exploitation, as orphans and war-wounded. This population is forgotten by the NGOs, their own communities, the researchers, and their governments because they don’t fit a category for aid. Like victims of the Ebola epidemics, without names, ASCEWs also remain unnamed. Since there is not enough research on this population, I encourage the term ASCEWs to be applied by the

researchers, NGOs, and governments for any war situations worldwide so that their plight can be recognized and aided. If the term ASCEWs can be recognized to represent this group, I believe this will be a step toward providing adequate attention to them.

This thesis found that little attention is paid to help, protect, and care for ASCEW by the humanitarian organizations and the government of Sierra Leone. Society has forgotten their vulnerabilities as child soldiers, rape victims, orphans, amputees, wounded children, and victims of other atrocities. If efforts are not made to aide these young adults, Sierra Leone will witness the emergence of a forgotten and lost generation.

Some of these young people are now married with children, some are single parents and most of them are total amputees. Most of these young, socially, politically, and economically marginalized men and women have been excluded from the country's resources. In addition, they are from the rural areas that lack education and access to livelihood opportunities. When citizens find it difficult to meet their most basic needs in life because neither government nor civil society provides them with better living conditions, citizens become violent. Violence becomes justified as the only means to recover the monopolized country's natural resources. This trend actually initiated the NGOs intervention in the civil war in Sierra Leone.

More attention should be paid to ASCEWs since their future lies in the hands of these humanitarian organizations and the government. Although many non-governmental organizations, public sectors like government agencies, and United Nations agencies have aided ASCEWs in Sierra Leone, there was no effective and adequate services rendered them after the war. Kanyako, (2010) research states that "80 percent of Sierra Leone's GDP was \$300 million in 2002 and that was provided by multilateral,

bilateral and UN agencies” (p. 2). Kanyako, (2010) “94 percent of the million dollars was said to have channeled through Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) made up of twenty-six percent of the total support to Sierra Leone” (p. 2). Even with this support, there was inadequate services, protection and care given to ASCEWs in Sierra Leone that has led to their continued poor standard of living in the present. The study of ASCEWs in this research indicates they deserve further exploration and attention in terms of policy-making, scholarly studies, and protections. This research will generate considerations and recommendations as to how best to respond to their human right’s needs by answering the question, “What have been the effects of interventions by human rights relief organizations on ASCEWs from the 1991 - 2002 civil wars in Sierra Leone?”

The idea of this research came to me when I made a family visit to Sierra Leone in 2010. While driving around the city of Freetown, I came across many young people who were begging in the streets. After inquiring why so many young people were begging, the answer was that they were young people from the war. I was left with the trauma after reflecting on my own situation following the war. I saw myself in them as a victim of war. After escaping the Liberian war in 1991, I fled to Sierra Leone the homeland of my mother only to become a refugee in that war-torn country from 1992 to 2001. Therefore, the psychological, economic, social, and cultural effects of war that affected ASCEWs also had affected me. As a young adult, I experienced hunger, lack of education and health care, loss of members of my relatives, homelessness, and traveling in the bushes to avoid rebel controlled areas. The only difference between my war experience and that of some members of ASCEWs is that, I did not pick up arms and I

was already an adult. On the other hand, most members of ASCEWs who picked up arms were under age children. Subsequently, after the war, I was left alone to struggle with my three children without any help as my research found the case of ASCEWs. While I was able to escape to the U.S. and gain education, most of these young people were not as fortunate. I later decided to investigate the effects of interventions by human rights relief organizations on ASCEWs during and after the war in Sierra Leone. This thesis is a part of my story as well.

1.1 Map of Sierra Leone Showing the District Headquarters

Sierra Leone is divided into fourteen districts, inclusive of the western area also known as Western Area Urban District and is divided into two districts. One traditional leader rules each district. The western area urban district is governed by elected district council officials headed by the council chairman. The districts are further divided into one hundred and forty-nine chiefdoms, each chiefdom headed by a local chief.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Sierra_Leone).



Chapter Two-Literature Review

2.0 The United Nations Development Program, (UNDP), the human development index, a compound statistics of life expectancy, education, and income per capita, indicates that Sierra Leone is 180th out of 187 countries in the world. Moreover, Sierra Leone heavily depends on foreign aid, with about 50 percent of public investment programs funded by external resources. Furthermore, 60 percent of Sierra Leoneans live below the national poverty line and 70 percent of youth are unemployed or underemployed, estimated only at 800, 000 unemployed youth (undp.org). UNDP reports show that the youth ages 15 to 35 comprise one third of the population in Sierra Leone. Sadly, illiteracy remains a big challenge to the youth in Sierra Leone because youth who lack basic skills and education find it extremely difficult to compete in the job market. Per UNDP, 9.5 percent of women have either secondary school or higher education compared to 20 percent of their male counterparts. Though many young children voluntarily joined the conflict in Sierra Leone, many were recruited against their wishes. The (Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, (CSUCS) (2008), a United Kingdom based NGO states that, “50 percent were abducted at age 15 or younger.” Even though the NGOs and the Sierra Leone government did not provide statistics of ASCEWs during my interview, the Solomon & Ginifer, (2008) study stated that “A total of 72,490 combatants were disarmed, 71, 043 demobilized, and 63, 545 former combatants participated in the reintegration segment, including 6, 845 child soldiers.” If there are, in Kaplan’s phrase, “loose molecules in Sierra Leonean society (young people detached from the wider social fabric), who are they, and where are they to be found?” Per Richard (1996), Kaplan looks for them among the urban unemployed (p. 125). There

are many unemployed young people roaming about the streets in Sierra Leone because the government could not provide them employment opportunities. The focus of these young people is not about war but the ability to engage in their self-development. Kaplan refers to the young marginalized people in Sierra Leone as loose molecules simply because of their poor living conditions in the country. They were not “impoverished criminals but entrepreneurial types lured by diamonds; stranded by state recession” furthermore, “these ‘young people’ seek not revolution but re-attachment to a functioning state system (p. 125). Rather than viewing these young people as productive citizens, the structural inequality portrays them as marginalized trouble makers. Per Richard (1996), a substantial number of people were enumerated in two areas outside the district of their birth; located in Freetown capital, and the Bo, Kenema, and Kono known to be the diamond mining districts (p. 125). Unemployment in Sierra Leone is an urban phenomenon. Men, who are a part of the educated class, and especially those who completed secondary education, did so without achieving any better opportunities, Richard concluded, such as better employment and higher education. This population claimed to be unemployed because since they finished high school, they do not have the means to further their education neither do they have job opportunities to earn income as human dignity, (Richard, 1996 p. 126). This population may be the class Kaplan referred to as ‘Loose Molecule.’ Many of these young people I interviewed were between the ages of twenty-seven and thirty-eight years and were unemployed and inactive in the labor market. Boyden, J and Berry, J. de, (2004) stated, “Atrocities children witness disrupt them developmentally in their most important formative years.” The formative years of a child’s life, as reported by World Health Organization, make up

the “period in human growth and development that occurs after childhood and before adulthood, from ages ten to nineteen.”

2.1 Sierra Leone: Case study – History of the New War.

Sierra Leone is a small country on the West Coast of Africa. Like many other African countries, the land of Sierra Leone is rich in natural resources such as diamonds and gold. But the widespread violence in the 1990s destroyed the hope of the citizenry to make change through democratic means. Between 1991 and 2002, Sierra Leone experienced a new war; a brutal civil war, a man-made disaster that was characterized by violence, atrocities, and abuses of the country’s citizenry, especially among its children. Superficially, some of the facts of the war seem to fit the theory of what Richards (1996) called the “New Barbarism,” fighting takes place mainly by means of hit and run raids and ambushes in thickly forested country. With little hardware, the rebels relied upon bush craft, misinformation, and terror tactics to control villagers and demoralize the better – armed government troops. This led them to actions, such as beheading chiefs, cutting the hands and fingers off villagers that cause outsiders to assume wanton and mindless violence, Richard notes. Members of ASCEWs were affected.

War, as defined by Carl Von Clausewitz cited by (Kaldor, 2010), is a social activity. It involves the mobilization and organization of individual men, almost never women, for inflicting physical violence (p. 15), found out that distinctions between old and new civil wars imply that new civil wars are characteristically criminal, de-political, private, and predatory (p. 100). Dudley, Knight, McNeur & Rosengarten, (as cited by Edward Goldson,1968) claims that the character of war has changed:

In ancient times, war was fought with stones and clubs and then advanced to

spears and bow and arrows. We then progressed to guns and on to bombs, mines and other armaments that enabled us not only to kill other combatants but to also to wreak havoc on civilians and the environment, furthermore, man has finally achieved with the development of anti-aircraft, tanks and other heavy duty weapons, the capacity to destroy entire populations and with even more advanced technology to surgically deliver firepower to many specific targets (p. 809).

The warring factions demonstrated new type of war during the civil war in Sierra Leone. To consider the war in Sierra Leone criminal, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) was not a formal political party, but an opposition rebel group that looted the country, damaged the country's infrastructures, and killed the citizens of Sierra Leone. The kind of atrocities that took place in Sierra Leone was one of its kind in the history of war. Warring factions had no humanitarian feelings.

The Sierra Leone conflict soon spread in all major productive areas of the country, thereby creating political instability. After the coup in 1992, the Sierra Leone Army (SLA) was considered undisciplined as evidenced in 1997 when the Sierra Leonean Army colluded and formed an alliance to fight alongside the RUF rebels against the very government that they served. Thus, the main victims of the violence were civilians rather than soldiers. ASCEW were recruited by the coalitions and sent to destroy their homes and kill members of their own families. Fear was a convincing factor for the youngsters to join the force. Especially, the fear of what the warring factions would do to any young person suspected of associating with any movement, if re-captured, (Richard, 1996). In support of Richard's claim, Beah (2007), a former child soldier in Sierra Leone lamented:

Young boys were immediately recruited, and the initials of RUF were carved wherever it pleased the rebels, with a hot bayonet. This not only meant that you were scarred for life but that you could never escape from them, because escaping with the carving of the rebels' initials was asking for death, as soldiers would kill you without any questions and militant civilians would do the same (p. 24).

The barbaric actions of the rebels meant that the ASCEWs had no choice but to stay away from recruitment into child soldiers. Whenever these young children carried rebel RUF marks, they were always in danger of death. Certainly, Amnesty International (1992, 1993) as cited by Richard (1996), states that, summary execution of such suspects has served as a powerful aid to the faction's retention of its captive youngsters.

There was moreover, the formation of a new local institution known as the Civil Defense Forces (CDF). The CDF institution was comprised of civilian hunters, who organized themselves to protect their villages without formal military training. Although the CDF were highly admired when newly initiated and they began fighting, they later began to harass and abuse the civilian population. The Sierra Leone conflict is no exception to the generalization that modern warfare targets civilians as well as enlisted troops (Richard, 1996). Whether the warring factions in Sierra Leone were in anyway justified in their decision to take up violence is highly debatable, the consequences have been tragic, even though their actions are not the actions of madman or mindless savages. Once a decision to resort to violence had been taken, hand cutting, throat slitting and other acts of terror became rational ways of achieving intended strategic outcomes (Richard, 1996). Turning to the new civil wars in Sierra Leone, it is important to begin by pointing out that our understanding of violence is culturally defined; killing by knife,

matches, and sticks rather than artillery bombing or machine guns now began as new means of atrocities in Sierra Leone (Kalyvas, 2006, p. 115) reported. The modern warfare we saw in Sierra Leone was not actually battling with an army organized along traditional lines, but with a few armed elements acting secretly within a population controlled by a special organization, thereby imposing its will upon the population, Kalyvas concluded. The government of Sierra Leone only gained victory through the complete destruction of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) organization. However, the government found it difficult to defeat RUF, because RUF was far more difficult to identify, no physical frontier separates the two factions. Modern warfare is now an interlocking system of actions – political, economic, psychological; and military that aims at the overthrow of the established authority in a country and its replacement by another regime (Trinquier, 2006, p. 5). The RUF came in with no political establishment to overthrow the democratically elected government. The Armed conflict in the Sierra Leone war caused underdevelopment and poverty among its citizens, especially the children. The war reduces investment, worsened social services provisions, lowered economic growth, and weakened human indicators (p.5). Diamonds were smuggled bringing income to all the warring factions to purchase arms and ammunitions thereby prolonging the war in Sierra Leone.

Keen (2005), author of *Conflict and Collusion in Sierra Leone*, argued that this particularly vicious style of war was “a logical, even if execrable, response of dispossessed people, especially young men, who expressed their rage at their marginalization in a patronage in which clients expected Big Men to contribute to their welfare” (p. 327). One of the reasons for the involvement of these young people in the

Sierra Leonean war was because of their marginalization. The system in Sierra Leone considered these young people as idlers. Thus, the politicians in Sierra Leone used the young people as tools to destroy the elite's power. Average young people who wanted a share of this "loot" had to compromise with the corrupt system. For many, this meant joining the armed gangs that used to assert their authority in return for a few crumbs, Keen, (2005, p. 327) concluded. This kind of politics provided politicians the raw materials for this kind of war well before it started in 1991. Keen (2005) writes, "Fighters, both rebels and renegade army units, fought in context of the collapse of state services and the unwillingness of politicians to protect them" (p. 327). Culture clash, resource competition and environmental breakdown, Richard additionally pointed out, provoked a rash of small, localized and essentially uncontrollable armed conflicts. Many are anarchic disputes, that is, apolitical events indistinguishable from banditry and crime. Insulation rather than intervention is the rational response of the major powers (Richard, 1996). In Kaplan's view, Sierra Leone's war was a product of social breakdown caused by population pressure and environmental collapse. Conventional definitions of civil wars are premised upon the idea of government forces engaged in armed conflict against non-government rebels. However, the Sierra Leone war became the opposite because the Armed Forces of Sierra Leone (AFSL) also took up arms against the very government they were protecting.

The Sierra Leone conflict was considered a new civil war as further described by Kalyvas, (2006) who stated that, the Sierra Leone war was caused and motivated by private predation; the parties to the conflict lacked popular support and therefore relied on coercion, gratuitousness, and barbarism. Violence was dispersed against civilian

populations, which distinguish Sierra Leone war as criminals rather than political phenomena. As new warfare, the Sierra Leone civil war had no ethical rules; it involved killing innocent people, the destruction of houses, poisoning water supplies, executing disarmed prisoners or killing women and children. Therefore, for most members of ASCEW, joining the warring factions as child soldier was to save their lives. Guthrie and Quinlan (2007), states that “Moral accountability is a central of what is means to be a human being. Every human activity must be open to moral examination, to question what is right or wrong to do.” Hence the warring factions took up their guns in Sierra Leone, there was nothing moral about their behaviors; the warring factions killed innocent children, raped young girls and recruited young people. In support of Guthrie and Quinlan, Kalyvas (2006) claims that “the 1999 agreement ending the civil war in Sierra Leone met with opposition from many human rights activists, journalists, and opinion makers, who believed that the rebels were violent criminals and not political revolutionaries and that it was therefore immoral to grant them amnesty and invite them to participate in the new government” (p. 101). Guthrie and Quinlan, (2007) observe that “the structure of the just war tradition starts from the recognition that killing or injuring other people is *prima facie* gravely wrong, and that war is therefore in itself a great evil.” The evil of war in Sierra Leone included the atrocities committed by the warring factions. Human casualty was the most immediate effects of armed conflict in Sierra Leone, especially in relation to women and children. Prior to the 20th century, the major casualties were soldiers who died both from war injuries and infection. Although there was no statistics of military casualties in Sierra Leone, “If one examines the average annual number of deaths per million populations from wars in the past, it ranges

from 19.0 in the 17th century to 10.8 in the 19th century. This increases drastically in the 20th century to 183.2 deaths per million” (Garfield & Neugot, 1991), with a significant increase in deaths among the civilian population. When war became intensified in Sierra Leone, there was no respect for human rights neither the Conventions of the Rights of the Child was observed, even though Sierra Leone ratified the convention in 1990, the rights of ASCEWs was abused during the civil war in Sierra Leone.

2.2 The Abuse of ASCEWs Rights in Sierra Leone

This research considers children’s rights as human rights as stipulated in the Declaration of Human Rights (DHR). Even though the Sierra Leone government ratified the Conventions on the Rights of a child (CRC) in 1990, the government failed to protect the rights of the children. Subsequently, with all the human rights conventions and other treaties on human rights signed by nation states including Sierra Leone, violations of these conventions and treaties in Sierra Leone civil war occurred. This research therefore investigates the types of children’s’ rights that were abused in Sierra Leone to help evaluate the intervention of the NGOs and the government agency involvement in the protection of children.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is generally accepted as the foundation of the International Human Rights Law (IHRL) adopted on December 10, 1948 after World War II, to represent all nations’ views of humanity. Framers of this declaration envisaged three parts of the post war human rights enterprise: a set of principles, the codification of those principles into law, and the practical means of implementation. Articles One and Two are considered the foundation blocks of the UDHR while Articles Three to Eleven are rights of individuals. Human rights are not

just abstract values. Human rights traditionally have been thought of as moral rights of the highest order. They have also become national, regional, and international legal rights (Jack, 2010) where most countries have ratified the CRC including Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone ratified the CRC in June, 1990 as part of the treaty to observe and protect the rights of children. The convention was preserved into national legislation through the 2007 Child Rights Act that supersedes all other national laws (unicef.org/rig). When countries ratify the Convention, they agree to review their laws relating to children. This ratification involves assessing children's social services, legal, health, educational, as well as levels of funding for these services (unicef.org). The question remains in what ways the Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC) has rights made a difference to children in Sierra Leone? Three rights of the ASCEWs that were abused in Sierra Leone were: a) The Provision rights, b) the Protection rights and c) the Participation rights commonly known as 3Ps.

2.3 Provision Rights – Rights to life, survival, and development of one's full potential.

Robert Aley, as mentioned by Schirmacher (2006) names five criteria for differentiating between human rights and other reasonable claims: the criteria are based on the Universality, moral validity, fundamental nature, priority, and abstracts. Nowadays, human rights organizations painstakingly keep count of when the abuse happens, and denounce acts, globally or even brings these issues before an International body (Schirmacher, 2006). Although children were seriously beaten and forced to work in the past, today, children have individual rights, and the well-being of children means that degrading child rearing practices and children's exploitation are prohibited even

though the problem has not been eradicated, Schirrmach, (2006). Article Four of the Declaration of Human Rights gives the responsibility to all nations' governments to take all available measures to respect, protect, and fulfil children's' rights. However, Article four of the DHR was not observed during the war in Sierra Leone as a member of the CRC.

In the Declaration of Human Rights, the provision rights of children are rights to minimum standards of family life and access to parental care, health care and health services, education, social security, physical care, play, recreation, culture, and leisure. It also includes disabilities, separation from family, and preservation of identifications. In the chaos of conflict and escape during the civil war in Sierra Leone, members of ASCEWs fell into harm's way because they were separated from their parents. ASCEWs were deprived of physical care and emotional security, becoming more vulnerable to hunger, disease, violence, military recruitment, and sexual assault, (Graca, 1996). ASCEWs education, which is a life affirming activity, was interrupted and their recreational activity such as sports, drawing, and music activities that helped them cope with trauma of conflict, were all derailed during the war in Sierra Leone. Cairn, (2006), reported that when the economic problem spread to other parts of the society, it affects government –sponsored services such as healthcare and education that seems crucial to the development of children (p. 12). Such services were not provided to ASCEW during the war because the focus of government, especially in poorer countries like Sierra Leone emphasizes military support to end the conflict. This action is an indication that justice will not easily prevail through legislative or treaty laws, neither human rights activism. The weakness of the United Nations (UN) conventions and treaties are again evidenced

in both cases as ASCEWs' human rights during and after the war were not protected. The UN has all its capabilities to prevent, stop, and protect these ASCEWs by any means possible from violent situations. Carpenter (2010) pointed out the "The absence of children of war on the global agenda results from low priority given to children and women by post conflict governments" (p. 195). However, the UN fails to restrict the warring faction or other political elites from harming the innocent ASCEWs who are the future leaders, initiating the violation of the ASCEWs' protection rights.

2.4 Protection Rights – Keeping children safe from harms.

Human Rights Watch, an organization that documents right abuses around the world, reports that millions of children work long hours under hazardous conditions and are forced to serve as soldiers in armed conflicts. They suffer targeted attacks on their schools and teachers; languish in institutions or detention centers, where they endure inhumane conditions and assaults on their dignity (hrw.org). Sierra Leone was no exception in harming its children. ASCEWs were targeted by bombing their positions, they were dehumanized, and stripped of their human dignity by denying them the inalienable rights stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Protection Rights should save children from discrimination, child labor, physical and sexual abuse, exploitation, substance abuse, injustice, and conflict. Protection rights also includes protection from childhood injury, family violence, physical punishment, exploitation through child pornography and the right to be safe going to and from school. In Sierra Leone, girls and women were threatened continually by rape, mutilation, violence, sexual exploitation and abuse and many members of ASCEW that I interviewed suffered amputations from the warring factions. Honwana (2006) stated that "young

women and girls are kidnaped and held in military camps where they are used as laborers, servants and sexual slaves” (Honwana, 2006, p. 5). Graca (2001) agrees danger lurks in all settings, whether at home, during flight, in refugee or displaced person’s camps. Graca (2001) identifies the impact of sexual violence on girls or boys as a potentially dangerous cause of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, as well as the devastating impact on physical, psychological, and social development. ASCEWs were not protected from this violation of rights because my interview them this population indicates there were molested, maimed, physically abused, and labored abused among others as evident in Sierra Leone. Honwana (2006) observed that, the traditional idea that war compels men to go into battle to protect the women, children and the elderly who remain safe and secure at home no longer holds. Honwana (2006) argues that, “Civilians, especially children have increasingly been incorporated into military activities in ways that defy established conventions about civilian protections in times of war.” All warring factions recruited children in Sierra Leone with no respect for the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Beah (2007), explains in his memoirs how children including himself were drugged while recruited by rebels and government soldiers during the war in Sierra Leone (p.116). The actions of the warring factions violated article 33 of the UDHR. Article 38 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) states that governments must do everything they can to protect and care for children affected by war. Children under 15 should not be forced or recruited to take part in war or join armed forces (DHR). The question remains who then will be responsible for the citizens? This question was not answered in Sierra Leone where ASCEW and civilian

populations suffered and are still suffering to date, sufferings that represent Hayden's (2009) concept of political evil or banal evil, that is, when harms are generated through structures or a structural violence that reduces human status, denying them homes, resources, equal rights, liberty, and political recognition to citizens as in the case of ASCEW. Hayden (2009) concept identifies that, when ASCEWs became helpless, they can neither flee from war, nor can they defend themselves against violence circumstances. Furthermore, ASCEWs do not bear arms to defend themselves in violent situations neither do they harm nor kill, or wound except they are forcedly recruited to carry the work of an adult or under forced labor. This evil is not on moral grounds. It is complete dehumanization, loss of personhood and exclusion from a human world. Per Arendt, (1951), *The Origins of Totalitarianism* suggests that, political evil destroys the social or public roots of common sense, the shared measure of human experience through which we have a place in the world with others (Arendt, 1951, p. 15). As result, when evil does not recognize goodwill, humanity and human rights, the means of ASCEWs participation became impossible.

2.5 Participation Rights: Having an active voice.

ASCEW, by law, do not have autonomy or the rights to make decisions on their own for their well-being because of their age, making them vulnerable. Thus, parents, guardians and all those who take care of children have the authority to protect, guide and effectively care for them. They must maintain children's rights. Children's rights have been argued for centuries. Rights are entitlements, valuable commodities, which we do not have to grovel or beg to get, according to (Freeman, 1996). Children's rights are not generally greeted with huge enthusiasm. Few politicians give children's rights any

prominence, Freeman, 1996) concluded. Atwool (2006) reported that, the media coverage of rights is unbalanced, child advocacy involves taking a proactive approach towards recognizing the rights of all children, and responding by changing systems, policies, and individuals, to ensure that they are given the opportunity to reach their potential and improve the processes which affect their daily lives (p. 14). ASCEWs lives are being devastated and they are more traumatized with armed conflict which Cairns (1996) classifies as “immediate threat to future life” of the children (p. 34). The Declaration of Human Rights principle of CRC affirms that children are full-fledged persons who have the rights to express their views in all matters affecting them and requires that those views be heard and given due weight in accordance with the child’s age and maturity. Since ASCEWs were denied the rights to participate in decision-making on their own behalf during the war, their participation rights continue to be violated even when they are now young adults. Participation rights recognizes the potential of ASCEW to enrich decision – making processes, to share perspectives and participate as considered in each matter concerning children. Furthermore, participation rights include respect for the view of the children; ASCEWs have the right to say what they think should happen and have their opinion considered. The law in Sierra Leone did not protect ASCEWs from attacks against their way of life, their names, their families, and their houses as part of their rights to privacy. The war in Sierra Leone prevented ASCEW from meeting together and joining groups and organizations about their freedom of association. As ASCEW in Sierra Leone ran for their lives, and others were recruited into various warring factions, their rights to physical integrity, right to information, right to freedom of speech and opinion, and to challenge decisions made on

their behalf, rights to be heard, and respect for their views as part of participation rights, were violated.

Convention on the Rights of a Child mandates that children will receive access to provision, protection, and participation rights mentioned above. When these rights are not protected, permitted, and observed, children's rights are then abused as in the case of ASCEWs in Sierra Leone. Subsequently, the failure to implement even the basic rights of ASCEWs became human rights issues. While it is true that all children are, vulnerable and need help, ASCEW was in a special situation in which their vulnerability and human rights need more attention. Carpenter (2010), stated that, "the fact that these children are now considered young adults, the network around children and armed conflicts has come to include so many other populations of concern but makes little mention of children born of war as vulnerable group" (p. 193). Because children affected by war are not mentioned around the network of children warrants me to create an acronym known as ASCEWs to allow the recognition of this population. Armed violence facilitated by various institutions had negative social, economic, political, and cultural human rights impact on ASCEWs in Sierra Leone. ASCEWs were dehumanized by institutional violence by making them homeless, defenseless, orphans, amputee, and war wounded. ASCEWs were also maimed, sexually exploited, enslaved, drugged and were forced to take up weapons committing the worst atrocities during armed conflict. Jack (2013) reported that the dominant Western concept of human rights emphasizes only civil and political rights thereby making it easier to achieve due to the pressure from the civil societies on the political elites. Western implementation of internationally recognized human rights, has emphasized popular sovereignty operating

within the rule of law, welfare state, provision of economic and social rights and liberal democratic political legitimacy, thus, economic, and social rights are more difficult to attain due to greed, racism, and the history of colonization, (Jack, 2013, p. 63).

Moreover, Jack (2013) commented that the West is historically associated with the Atlantic Slave Trade, often savage colonization, religious persecution, violent racism, absolute monarchy, predatory capitalism, global warfare of almost unthinkable destructiveness, fascism, communist totalitarianism and a host of other evils and social ills, (p. 62). Many countries, groups, and individuals, both western and non-western have suffered, and continue to suffer under the burdens directly or indirectly created by western policies and practices. Such policy implementation was responsible for the delay of United Nations interventions and the interventions of relief operations in Sierra Leone, thereby creating avenue for the warring factions to commit more atrocities. Unless legislation is backed by strong enforcement, the rights of a child are likely to be legally and politically guaranteed as evident in the case of ASCEWs in Sierra Leone. However, if armed conflict is still being promoted and dominated by the West, human rights discourse and intervention is un-likely to be achieved. Furthermore, the new civil war was carried out by criminals in Sierra Leone made the enforcement of the human rights conventions and treaties ratified by the government worthless, thereby creating negative impact on the ASCEWs.

Chapter Three

3.0 Methodology

To answer the question, “What have been the effects of interventions by human rights relief organizations on ASCEWs from the 1991 - 2002 civil war in Sierra Leone?” I conducted interviews with representative members of three NGOs and one government agency. Moreover, I interviewed ten members of ASCEWs in the district headquarter of Moyamba facilitated by Network Support for Peace and Education (NeSPE). The age group that I interviewed fell within the UNDP statistics of youths in Sierra Leone, that is, between twenty to thirty-five years. The participants interviewed ranged from rebel and military child soldiers, local militias, sexually abused victims, amputees, and war wounded from different geographical locations in Sierra Leone.

I conducted the qualitative study in three cities in Sierra Leone: Freetown, Bo, and Moyamba from January 27 to April 30, 2016. I also interviewed Six staff members of Non-Governmental Organizations and two staff members of a Sierra Leone government agency. The NGOs included (1) UNICEF, a United Nation agency responsible for overseeing and supports children’s’ affair worldwide. Since UNICEF signed a memorandum of understanding with the Sierra Leone government, I treated UNICEF in this research as a support organization. As a developmental International Organization, there is both international and national staffs. Thus, the most important staff to meet for this research was the national staff who worked in child protection during and after the war in Sierra Leone. This Staffer had diverse knowledge of the Sierra Leonean war. Therefore, I met with the national staff as recommended by a senior administrator at UNICEF to collect my research data. (2) World Vision – Sierra Leone,

an NGO that works towards children's welfare and community development, (3) Plan International – Sierra Leone, whose main function is to help with children's education, and (4) the Government of Sierra Leone, an agency in charge of Gender and Children's affairs and a local NGO known as Network Support for Peace and Education (NeSPE), whose mission is to help the war affected victims. I interviewed various professional staff members of the organizations including an administrator and child protections staff member at UNICEF in Freetown, a senior administrator and former child protection unit staff member at World Vision in Bo. Moreover, in Freetown, one senior administrators at Plan International were interviewed, while two senior administrators were interviewed at MSWGCA in Freetown. Furthermore, a senior staff member of NeSPE, a partner of Plan International and ten members of ASCEW were interviewed in Moyamba. My initial contact started with an exchange of communications with administrators, and staff members of the organizations I intended to interview (see appendix A). The communications included emails, text messages, voice calls to negotiate for their acceptance or approval of my collaboration (see appendix D). The acceptance of my interview request allowed the Institute of Research Bureau, Arizona States University to recognize these organizations and approve my research (see appendix C). The organizations' acceptance also made an easy transition after I arrived in Sierra Leone where these organizations are operating. Through introduction to the authorities in charge and explaining the purpose of my visit, my presence was acknowledged. Because of the relocation of many staff members of the NGOs after the civil war in Sierra Leone, I decided to use a snowball method of data collection to allow accessibility to those relocated staffs and access to AWCEWs. I contacted an employee at UNICEF who then

referred me to the child protection officer in Freetown, the senior administrator at World Vision in Bo directed me to a former child protection unit staff, while Plan International administrator referred me to NeSPE's senior staff in Moyamba to facilitate the interview of ASCEW. Moreover, I conducted a structured interview in Krio, of which I am a fluent speaker, with ten ASCEW's members. These interviews were tape recorded to balance the claims made by the NGOs.

The specific questions to ASCEW include: 1) How are you, as a child survivor living your life? 2) What type of assistance have you received from NGOs or Government of Sierra Leone? 3) Are your parents alive? If not, how did your parents die? Natural or by means of war? 4) How many brothers and sisters do you have? 5) Why are you begging in the streets of Sierra Leone? 6) If given a chance as child survivors, would you be willing to go to school or undertake some vocational training like carpentry, masonry, or electricity? 7) What message do you have for the government of Sierra Leone, child relief organizations and UNICEF? These questions are intended to answer the research question about the effectiveness of the humanitarian organizations' involvement in helping the Adult Survivors of Childhood Exposure to War (ASCEW) in the Sierra Leone civil war.

I constructed an informal interview based upon the following questions with the NGOs. The questions included 1) What are the specific services provided by your organizations? 2) What are the organizations policies? 3) Who gets served and under what conditions? 4) What models of service do the organizations use? 5) What kinds of government policies are in place for helping these children? 6) How are individual war child survivors coping with life? And 7) What is the impact of war these children?

Questions were solicited through face -to face-interviews and tape recorded and transcribed.

To meet the requirements of the Institute of Research Bureau at the Arizona State University about human subject, I fulfilled the approved protocols (see appendix C). Thus, verbal consent forms were prepared and read to both members of staff of the organizations and members of ASCEWs. To further maintain the confidentiality of the human subjects, I decided to refer to the staff members as senior administrator or staffer, while I refer to members of ASCEWs as respondent one to ten as their number suggests. The data was transcribed and analyzed per my findings and recommendations are made to allow these organizations to review their operations in intervention.

Chapter Four

4.0 Interview with Adult Survivors of Childhood Exposure to War (ASCEW) in Sierra Leone.

“War is at first, the hope that one will be better off; next, the expectation that the other fellow will be worse off, then, the satisfaction that he isn’t any better off; and finally, the surprise at everyone’s being worse off” (Krause, 2014).

I conducted ethnographic interviews with ten ASCEWs members to balance the claim made by the organizations in this research. In reviewing this interview data of ASCEWs, several experiential categories emerged. I placed the interviewees according to those categories: a) child soldiers (military and rebel); b) local militias (Kamajors); c) orphans; d) sexually abused young women; and e) amputees and war-wounded. Access to these young people was obtained via the Plan International Staff initiative. Plan International had a youth program through which they trained and educated a young war wounded man, who later partnered with Plan International to establish a local NGO known as Network Support for Peace and Education (NeSPE) in 2002.

The mission of NeSPE is to advocate on behalf of child’s rights and peace building especially in areas of psychosocial counseling that helps de-traumatize war affected youths, and identify areas of poverty reduction strategies intended to promote peace security and good governance. Programs also geared towards youth development allow members of ASCEW to realize that no matter how much atrocities they might have committed during the civil war in Sierra Leone, they can still become better people. NeSPE senior staff commented that “Whatever young people did during the war was never their faults.” However, he continues, a Norwegian organization also helped develop his skills in drama production and storytelling which enables the staffer to

partner with CARE – SL to engage in civil education geared toward girls' education. He had advocated to all stakeholders including the government of Sierra Leone to involve different categories of children in active planning that includes, illiterate, semi-illiterates, and literate youths. I arranged the interviewees into respondent one through ten to refer easily to them in reviewing the data.

4.1 Child soldiers (rebel and military)

Respondent one stated that he became a rebel child soldier in 1991 until the end of the war in 2001. He was captured by Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels in Kenema and was forced to join the movement at the age of six years. Respondent one reported to have been drugged by the rebels. He was instructed to kill, burn down houses, cut off people's arms and limbs among other atrocities. The reason for such atrocities respondent one continues was "When any child soldier refused to follow the commands of the rebel commander, resulted to executions." Respondent one lamented "I saw my friends being executed for failure to join the rebels; I therefore joined to save my life and to survive." Execution of these children was one of the main threats by the warring factions, allowing them to retain more fighters in their movements. Thus, there was no alternative for ASCEWs except to follow the commands given by the warring factions.

Respondent one said that after the disarmament, he and his colleagues were left abandoned by the government of Sierra Leone and the International Community (broad group of people and governments of the world) who sponsored the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration program as part of a transformation program where he did one-month vocational training in carpentry. After realizing that such short-term training was not helpful for his future advancement, he decided to continue formal

schooling and is presently in one of the Teachers' College. Respondent one reported that, the government of Sierra Leone did not render him any help as the government claimed. In the interview, respondent one said "Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Plan International did give me some help through capacity building that has transformed my life." Respondent one has appealed to the government of Sierra Leone to consider the youth for help and to involve youths in decision- making so that they would be deterred from war again. His main complaint about bad governance is a lack of employment for the youths. Respondent one claimed that, "more money was donated during and after the war for child combatants, but little was spent on ASCEWs development as compared to the millions spent on Ebola victims." He stated that "youth become partners in crime because of a lack of positive impacts in their lives." However, respondent one continued, that NGOs intervention in youth's lives would deter them from getting involved in destructive political activities. "When youth are constructively engaged in various commitments, the sense of idleness will stop; the youth will not be involved in any destructive activities." He claimed that "Politicians are responsible for the war in Sierra Leone. While these politicians send their own children overseas, they allow other youths to take part in destruction." To support the views of respondent one, Anderson (1999) states that, "across the world today, many civilians and many fighters as well, are accusing their leaders of involving them in unjust wars." Respondent one said since he was exposed to attending several forums and watching war films, he has realized that "No politician would put me in such a bad and embarrassing situation anymore." One of the challenges the respondent faced after the war was the reintegration into his community where everyone saw him committing atrocities. Finger pointing was the risk

he took to go back to his community. When he could not cope with the embarrassment, he decided to move to another place he felt was much safer to him than his hometown Kenema. The emotional response from respondent one clearly indicates the psychological effects he faced with especially the regret in his involvement in the war and the atrocities he committed. Respondent one is still believed to live with the stigma of war as mentioned in the effects of war in this research. The economic effects expressed by respondent one was the poor standard of living he is faced with, and little or no help that came from the government of Sierra Leone. Being a young adult with family responsibility, respondent one is faced with economic difficulties, lack of job, poor conditions of living, and the struggle to sponsor his education among others. The poor living conditions of respondent one creates more dire economic effects. Respondent one accepted being a lost child regardless of his pursuit for better education.

Respondent two was forcefully recruited into the Sierra Leone Armed Forces at the age of sixteen years after the rebels killed his mother. "I was drugged and commanded to kill while in the army" he lamented. After the war, respondent two reported, "I was not accepted by my community due to the record of atrocities that I committed." Furthermore, "I was not a paid child soldier, because I was not officially enlisted in the army, neither did I receive any help from the NGO." Respondent two decided to move to another community where people did not know him as a child soldier. As a father of two children, the second respondent still anticipates attending vocational training but such opportunity is not available putting more economic stress on him. Respondent two showed frustration and disappointment in humanitarian organizations because of the organizations' present concentrations on the Ebola victims in the country.

“I cannot imagine fighting for this country only to end up suffering for my living” he lamented. During my interview with respondent two, I observed that he lacks employment and education, but he wants to educate his two children though the means are not available because the NGOs and Sierra Leone government feel he can take care of himself as a young adult. The second respondent lamented “I fought for this country with no compensation and now I am rewarded with poor standard of living with my children.” Hence the effects of war continue to affect members of ASCEWs proving they continue to live with the stigma of war.

4.2 Local Militias

Local militias in Sierra Leone or Civil Defense Forces (CDF) during the war were organized Mende and Temne tribal hunters known as Kamajors and Tamaboros. The CDF sacrificed their lives to stop the destruction and harassment faced from the rebels in their communities. As respondent three stated, after the attack on Kenema by the rebels, he travelled to Moyamba at the age of twelve. While in his village, it was overrun by the rebels leaving him with no option but to runaway for his life. During his escape from the village, he tried to rescue his sick sister who could not walk. When firing intensified, he narrated, “my sister demanded me to leave her on the roadside to save my life.” The third respondent then took refuge in a village known as Korgbotuma where his friends convinced him to join the Karmajor militia. He said, “Recruitment into the Kamajor was the only way to stop the harassment from small children with guns.” As a small boy, the respondent said, “I killed a lot of people, burnt down many houses, and raped many girls under the influence of alcohol, drugs and marijuana.” Such atrocities were the order of

the day for all warring factions because of war. He confessed that “All the atrocities I committed were a revenge for the death of my father and sick sister by the rebels.”

Respondent three said “during and after the war, no NGO ever came to my rescue.” With emotion, the third respondent said, “Even though I went through the government DDR program, “The timeframe was too short to learn any vocational training like carpentry to be self-reliant” he reported. Respondent three said, “I am suffering as ex-combatant and an orphan who fought for Sierra Leone without getting any benefits in return from the government.” The lack of reward and help from government and other organizations was one of the major frustrations of ASCEW during my interview. The third respondent said “I can hardly cope with life neither socialize myself with our people because of my bad records.” He is still eager to go back to school if supported. The fact that respondent three cannot socialize with his community nor work to earn his living indicates the social and economic effects of this war.

Respondent four was 10 years old when the war broke out in Sierra Leone. Respondent four reported that rebels captured him when he came with his brother to Goidema in search for food. Respondent four’s decision to join the local militia strengthened when rebels killed his brother. However, “During the fight with the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Freetown city, I lost my right leg that was later amputated.” The fourth respondent lamented “I can still remember what happened to my family.” Respondent four reported “I was involved in committing atrocities but I regretted my behavior after the war.” Respondent four was eager to go back to school after the war in 2002, however, after going through the DDR program, he said, “the DDR program paid for my school fees for only one semester and failed to continue the

payments as was stipulated in the program package; I am just living by the mercy of God.” he concluded. The fourth respondent reported that “no NGOs neither the Sierra Leonean government came to my aid.” While respondent four could not control his emotion because of the lack of support as he compared ASCEWs to the Ebola victims, he angrily stated “This behavior is sad as we the war child survivors are seriously suffering.”

4.3 Orphans

The fifth respondent is an orphan who could not remember his age at the time of the war because he was on his mother’s back when rebels shot and killed his mother at Viama village. Both of his parents were killed and his grandmother raised him to adulthood. Added to his grief, respondent five was shot in the right leg, which was later amputated. The fifth respondent reported “I stopped at sixth grade and would not continue to go to school because my friends used to bully me for my one leg.” Bullying is one of the cultural and social effects of war on members of ASCEWs, with respondent five’s conditions, his community might not exempt him from partaking in the war, causing him more stress. Respondent five reported during my interview that, “The government agency known as National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) helped to build a two-bedroom apartment for me after the war and NaCSA also assisted to remove the stitches from my legs.” Respondent five proclaimed that no other organizations came to his rescue. If given chance, respondent five would like to attend vocational training since he is now an adult. Social interaction is one of the most important aspects in life. The fifth respondent’s response in my interview clearly indicates presence of social and economic effects of war on his life.

Furthermore, as an orphan, the sixth respondent was ten years old when stray bullets shot him. His parents escaped the Liberian war and took refuge in Sierra Leone as refugees. Stray bullets killed respondent's parents while escaping during the war in Sierra Leone. Since then, "No NGO or government had ever come to my rescue as a total amputee" he lamented. "I cannot do any work because of the pains I am going through, I don't have medical facilities and finding life very difficult as amputated refugee" he concluded. What was so pathetic about this respondent that I interviewed is that, respondent six ran away from war in Liberia only to get his legs amputated in exile. If the Sierra Leone government cannot protect and care for its national war victims, how would one imagine such government to help an amputated refugee? The sixth respondent's situation is serious because of him being a refugee in such condition. The living condition of respondent six is pathetic and needs immediate attention. The lack of basic services to maintain his dignity is a violation of his human rights.

4.4 Sexually Abused

"It is a difficult situation to talk about my situation to people" the young woman cried out. At the age of twelve, respondent seven was attacked by rebels in Moyamba and was forcibly abducted by the rebels into the jungle with six other young girls. Upon arrival on the rebel base the seventh respondent reported that rebels had raped and sexually abused her. Respondent seven explained "When the rebel base was attacked, we ran into the village called Levuma where the head of the rebel commander took me as his wife." However, in actuality she was a sex slave. Therefore, they became "bush husband and bush wife," a term used by (Coulter, 2009) to describe rebels and the captive girls, since rebels were known to be in the bush. "At the age of twelve, I was

married forcibly to a rebel commander for the period of fourteen years.” she cried. “I was only a freed woman when rebels moved down to Freetown city where I managed to escape from the rebels” she continued. Respondent seven said she declined to attend the TRC program because “it was shameful to stand before people and explain such a situation I went through.” Not all women can stand such situations. “This was one of the painful situations I found myself throughout my life and I will live with it forever” said respondent seven. “With my entire situation, no NGO neither government had come to help me, and as a mother of two fatherless children, my only ambition is to do petty trading to educate my children” she continued crying. She accused the government of Sierra Leone for helping more Ebola victims than ASCEWs. Respondent eight was sexually abused by rebels and was stabbed by the rebel bayonet on her neck, arms, and in the head. Without telling much of her story due to her emotions, her only concern is her two children she had from the rebels whose father could not be identified. “It is a shame for me in my community; people point fingers at me and my children” she cried. The impact of war on ASCEWs as clearly stated in this research echoes the responses from the sexually abused victims. The cultural belief that raped women are worthless because men would not accept them in their communities is presently affecting female members of ASCEWs in Sierra Leone.

4.5 Amputees and War- Wounded.

The ninth respondent was twelve years old when he was trapped behind the rebel held territories. He managed to escape from the rebel lines to seek refuge in Freetown, capital city of Sierra Leone. When the rebels entered Freetown, his house was again attacked by the rebels at which time he was stabbed on the right arm, that sustained

serious injuries. What is important and impressive is that respondent nine decided to put the past behind and work with the very rebels who committed atrocities on him. When I asked respondent nine how he felt working with such a group of people, he replied “My aim is to promote peace and avoid separation regardless the behavior of the perpetrators.” I also asked respondent nine about his challenges working with ex- child combatants and local militias. His response was “they are doing extremely well compared to children who were once destructive and abusive; they are now young adults and have realized and regretted their bad behaviors, so they are now good people.” As a war wounded, through the help of Plan International, he finished his secondary school and went to university. The ninth respondent later established an organization that caters to ASCEWs known as Network Support for Peace and Education (NeSPE). NeSPE has worked with both national and international organizations towards peace and youth development. It has also developed programs to hold both NGOs and the government of Sierra Leone responsible for the failure of service delivery to beneficiaries. Per respondent nine, he was inspired by the meeting held in Norway and Cameroun, which was called the Forum for Conflict Perspective for the young people in Africa. This meeting educated him to think of the kind of help needed for the child war survivors after a long-suffering war. According to respondent nine, he learned at the Norway forum, that from 1996 to 2004, no research has been done on child war survivors, nor have child war survivors been involved in any research process about their welfare in Sierra Leone. “No research on war can be effective without involving those young children who were affected by war” he concluded. Subsequently, after the meeting in Norway, the ninth respondent decided to register war- affected children now known as Adult Survivors of Childhood Exposure

to War (ASCEW). Respondent nine was the only successful ASCEW among all that I interviewed.

The tenth respondent explained, he was attacked by the rebels who amputated his arm while he slept in his bedroom at the age of ten. “Both my parents died during the war due to much suffering” he cried. “When my arm was amputated, Medicine Sam Frontiers came to my aid for medical assistance, while World Vision assisted with my education during the war.” Also in recent times, “NaCSA and the Norwegian Friends helped build a two-bed room apartment in Moyamba where I reside with my family.” His only uncle raised him following the death of his parents, but he too died shortly after. “As amputee, I do not have job neither I was educated because there was nobody to care for me; I am living by the mercy of God.” Respondent ten concluded.

These excerpts from the oral histories that I collected indicate that ASCEWs human rights are being abused and nothing is done to help them because they are now adults. Although ASCEWs adolescent age was spent during the war, their situations are not considered as vulnerable neither ASCEWs being considered as victims. The fact that ASCEWs are now young adults was the main reasons given to me by the NGOs and Sierra Leone governments as these organizations concentrate on developmental projects. In any case, ASCEWs must be rehabilitated if the organizations want to see healthy communities in Sierra Leone.

Chapter Five

5.0 The Impact of War on Children in Sierra Leone.

Luckman and Ahamed (2001), commented that Sub-Sahara African may be one of the most conflict-affected regions in the world today. In addition, Albertyn and Bickler, (2003) states that more than six decades of conventional warfare, genocide, ethnic and regional based conflict, and factional warfare have contributed to enormous human suffering, the displacement of families, civilian casualties, violence, economic instability, and loss of infrastructure with an ever-worsening economic crisis. Furthermore, the early 1990s saw the escalation of conflict in Africa, including Sierra Leone, this time driven by poor economic management, negative growth of gross domestic product (GDP), lack of basic social services and employment, and the further weakening of state authority. Warring factions, violence, ethnic cleansing, genocide, and civilian targets now replaced the previous emphasis on military objectives. War leads not only to widespread death, but also to extensive displacement, overwhelming fear, and economic devastation. It divides communities, destroys trust, weakens social ties, threatens household survivals, and undermines the family's capacity to care for its most vulnerable members, (Boyden and Berry, 2004). The Sierra Leonean war did not only kill and damage members of ASCEWs, but thousands experienced and continue to suffer psychological effects of war. Most importantly for this research we come to understand that war deprived ASCEWs economic stability, education, health care, social and cultural opportunities which are necessary for children's growth and wellbeing.

The ASCEW, who were affected by war, face more intense struggle for survival especially when they are now considered young adults. ASCEW have been left to deal with varied circumstances and problems characterized by the total collapse of economic, health, social and educational infrastructures. However, in situations of war, children are increasingly exposed to abandonment, abduction, forced soldiering, separation from and loss of parents, health problems, poverty, and hunger (Albertyn & Bickler, 2003). Yet as Carpenter (2010) pointed out, “the media coverage failed to trigger a rights-based response. They invoked these children as signifiers of atrocities against the nation, women, and civilized international order rather than subjects to human rights concern” (p. 192). Carpenter (2010) continues:

Even the International Criminal Laws have served as a site for perpetrating the worse view of these children, the view least consistent with promotion of rights. They have been construed as tools of genocide, weapons of biological warfare, and members of the perpetrating groups and signifiers of their mother trauma (p. 191).

In Sierra Leone, while many members of ASCEWs were forced to join armed forces or rebel groups, others may have presented themselves for service. ASCEWs were forced by the need for food, shelter, protection, and intimidations, voluntarily join army or rebel forces as narrated by some members of ASCEWs during my interview. Beah (2007), a former child soldier in his book, *The Long Way Gone*, mentions that “some children are abducted while in school, or in their villages at gunpoint to join ranks with warring factions desperate for more troops; those who resist were faced with death.” It is misleading, however, to consider ASCEWs’ action as “voluntary. Rather than

ASCEWs exercising free choices, these children responded more often to a variety of pressures such as psychological, economic, social, cultural, and political effects (Graca, 2004). Such impact was and is presently the effects on ASCEW in Sierra Leone.

5.1 Psychological Effect

The term psychosocial, as defined by (Graca, 1996), underlines the dynamic relationship between psychological and social effects, each of which continually influence the other (p. 80). Graca (1996) continues to define psychosocial effects as “Those that affect emotion, behavior, thoughts, memory, learning ability, perceptions and understanding” (p. 80). Displacements are another tragic consequence of war. In the chaos caused by armed conflict and violence, ASCEWs in Sierra Leone were separated from or simply abandoned by their parents. Estimates suggest that at present, 1 in every 150 people on earth, a total of 40 million, is displaced because of armed conflict, (Graca, 1996). In the current situation, eighty percent of all refugees and displaced people are women and children. Of these, five percent are children separated from their families during panic evacuations. Giving the statistic, Allan (1999), mentions that in Sierra Leone, rebel attack on rural villages forced 50,000 people to flee to nearby cities.

The Dyregrov, Gupta, Gjestad, & Mukanoheli (2000) research reported that child mortality as the result of war is estimated at five percent of children's deaths ensuing from direct trauma and ninety-five percent from starvation or illness, and that many are left with permanent disabilities. Most ASCEWs members I interviewed suffered amputation. As many as thirty-seven percent of children worldwide have lost both parents, forty-five percent of their mother and fifty-five percent of their father. This statistic is inclusive of the war in Sierra Leone since there was no specific data on

ASCEWs during the interview. ASCEWs, during my interview, expressed their frustrations in losing their parents, and the forcefulness with which they were recruited into the warring factions, being maimed, and amputated. Atrocities caused by the civil war as ASCEW reported created psychological effects on them. In addition, the lack of medical care during the war affected those children who were amputated causing them additional stress. According to the amputee members of ASCEW, there were no health care facilities provided for them when they were amputated. Cairns, (1996), classifies such cuts as “immediate threat to future life” (p. 34) of the children, which makes it difficult for children to resilient to their stress. Gupta, Leila, and Zimmer, & Catherine, (2008) cited that research from war – torn countries indicate that higher levels of exposure to traumatic events among children are associated with higher levels of post-traumatic stress disorder (p. 212). War affects every aspect of a child’s development, physical, emotional, intellectual, social, and spiritual. ASCEW in Sierra Leone experienced physical, emotional, intellectual, social, and spiritual effects of war. Children must be supported psychosocially as Article 39 of the Conventions on the Rights of the Child (CRC) guarantees the rights of children to psychosocial recovery and social reintegration following armed conflict or other abusive experiences. ASCEWs experienced a multitude of stresses and unprecedented levels of war-related violence and little was done to detraumatize them. The lack of adequate support left ASCEW with more stigma till present. Gupta and Zimmer, (2008) indicates that mental or psychiatric disorders are therefore common amongst child survivors, with many exhibiting symptoms of anxiety states, depression, and post-traumatic stress such as avoidance, insomnia, irritability, sleeping disorders, nightmares, lethargy, confusion, aggression,

fear, and the inability to concentrate, and all the ramifications of posttraumatic stress disorder (p. 23). Many of these children have witnessed brutalities and suffered from injuries, beatings, and starvation. My visit to Sierra Leone in 2010 witnessed members of ASCEWs begging in the streets of Sierra Leone which motivated me to undertake this research. Many believed they would die, and most had to hide for survival, (Green & Honwana, 1999). The ASCEWs' situation was serious because even after the war, these young adults continue to undergo post-traumatic stress as they move from combatant and victims to normal civilian lives as survivors. All the interviewed members of ASCEWs lack the support they need to maintain their human dignity, such as jobs that bring income, health care, and education which brings upward mobility. The poor conditions of living ASCEWs expressed creates psychological effects on them. As adults with families, ASCEWs complaint about raising their children as single mothers with no good educational supports, others were concerned about furthering their educations without sufficient means, while others were frustrated about lack of employment opportunities to maintain their dignities. At the end of the war, many countries focused on the rebuilding of infrastructure and economic development, rather than on the mental health problems of child soldiers and other survivors. Horror is one of the main difficulties that ASCEW have dealt with during the war. What ASCEWs witnessed, either watching while their parents had been killed, their homes destroyed, their communities shattered and suffering from hunger and disease are results of direct experience of violence, which affects children's emotional distress. One of the effects of war on ASCEW in Sierra Leone was the plight of mentally affected children in all communities as I observed during my visit to Sierra Leone in 2010. Not only was

members of ASCEWs health extremely poor, but their psyches were damaged in ways that defy imagination. ASCEWs were old beyond their years, they saw horrors of deaths, fought alongside adults, and held inappropriate responsibilities within their families. ASCEWs beggars were found in the streets of Sierra Leone looking for food, many members of ASCEWs in Sierra Leone carried burdens of guilt, either because they have survived the war as committers of the most atrocities or because they disappointed their family members because of their involvement in those atrocities. ASCEWs poor standard of living creates an economic effect on them.

5.2 Economic Effect

The economic impact of armed conflict on children as Cain, stated, occurs when trade and industry are affected by violence, parents became unemployed so there is less money for family essentials needs (Cairns, (1996). Cairn continues, “When the economic problem spread to other parts of the society, it affects government –sponsored services such as healthcare and education that seems crucial to the development of children.” The focus of government especially in poorer countries like Sierra Leone would be on military support to end the conflict. This lack of emphasis creates difficulties for parents to provide food and other basic needs for the family. Therefore, “It is children from the poorest families who are the most vulnerable” (Graca, 2004). Children from wealthier and better - educated families are at less risk of recruitment because their parents can buy their freedom or challenge their recruitment through legal means or political influence; some parents resort to sending their children out of the country as Graca, narrated. Most wealthy parents flee with their children into neighboring countries seeking for refuge as the war in Sierra Leone intensified. Per my

interview with members of ASCEWs, most of them accepted recruitment into warring factions to survive because they lacked food. Separated members of ASCEWs would not take care of themselves during the war. As ASCEWs are now consider young adults, taking care of themselves and members of their families become more difficult. The lack of support for this population is no more paramount to any NGOs neither the Sierra Leone government, causing more economic effects on ASCEWs. All social activities were seized and ASCEWs became idle with thinking of what to eat for a day, how to survive the day's bombing, and most especially thinking of their separated families causing them effects that are more social.

5.3 Social Effect

Social effects of war refer to the relationships altered by death, separation, estrangement, and other losses; family and community breakdown, damage to social values and customary practices and the destruction of social facilities and services, (Graca, 2001). Schools, families, peer groups in which ASCEWs are believed to involve in constant interaction are determinant of children's developmental outcome. Most members of ASCEWs were separated from their families, peer groups, schools were destroyed, and they were neglected by the damages to their communities. In Sierra Leone, ASCEWs was forced to attack their communities and neighbors, causing mistrust in the children, which hindered their return into their communities. Atwood (2006) lamented "These children are exploited, abused, tortured, or are faced with some forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment which needs social reintegration" (p. 19). As young adults, ASCEWs are mentally tortured because they are isolated in their communities as child soldiers, sexually abused women, bush wives, orphans, and

amputees. Social effects allow ASCEWs to be perceived on as actors rather than as passive victims. Education for ASCEWs was hindered, making them less consider in the job market, health care is not affordable even though they need it most, especially with their conditions as amputees, loss of ASCEWs parents stigmatize them to present, and finger pointing is a shame to their integrity. In this case, less attention is given to ASCEWs to participate in their cultural activities when they return into their communities interrupting their cultural beliefs.

5.4 Cultural Effect

Traditional practices can be useful in promoting children's psychological recovery especially where the elimination of a culture was an element of the armed conflict, (Graca, 2001). A bias in Western definition of a child as stipulated in the Convention of the Rights of a Child (CRC) exists. The indigenous practices that exist in other parts of the world are not considered by the West Graca concluded. In Sierra Leone, most of the children take family responsibility before the age of eighteen. In many countries in sub-Sahara Africa, after a traditional initiation rites of young people (puberty), he or she is no longer considered a child and begins assuming adult responsibility, Boothby, Neil. Strang, Alison, and Wessells, & Michael, (2006). In this case, young boys are expected to contribute to the household, doing farming, while young girls are expected to do domestic works such as cleaning and cooking and caring for their young siblings. This cultural bias has effects on ASCEWs during the war. How children interpret their experience is culturally scripted, based on the beliefs, values, and practices within the society, (Boothby et al., 2006). Boothby et al, (2006) argued that "In many war zones, spiritual dimensions are essential in interpreting experiences and

providing meaning”. In Sierra Leone for example, young girls who were raped and abused by the warring factions were considered by their communities unfit to be married by any man. This cultural belief was of great concern to members of ASCEWs who were sexually abused. In fact, when such activities took place in the bush, which is culturally considered a sacred place, the affected young girls have been marginalized. “Cleansing ceremonies and rituals to drive away troublesome spirits have been used to alleviate stress and to reconnect children with their communities (Graca, 2006). It is believed in Sierra Leonean culture that if any person kills his fellow- man, his spirit will follow the killer. The only way to drive the spirit is through rituals by the medicine man. ASCEWs also missed out on the cultural activities such as storytelling, participating in moon light activities with peer groups and receiving great care from their grandparents which has had a greater negative impact on them as evident in Beah (2007) book *A Long Way Gone*. While ASCEWs in Sierra Leone were affected by war, they continue to live a deplorable life that most humanitarian organizations seem to consider the abuse of their human rights. In Sierra Leone, there were many NGOs that proclaimed to have helped and care for ASCEWs, but the question remains how adequate and effective are the NGO services to help these children when in fact they are now considered young adults, which is a focus of my next chapter.

Chapter Six

6.0 Case Study of Human Rights Relief Organizations (NGOs) and the Government of Sierra Leone.

Are NGOs equipped to carry out the functions of governments to protect and care for the vulnerable children who are desperate for help during violent situations? This chapter is based on the case study of three Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and one governmental agency in Sierra Leone. The first NGO is an International Governmental Organization (IGO) known as United Nations Children's Funds (UNICEF). UNICEF is a United Nations (UN) agency responsible for overlooking children's affairs worldwide. The second NGOs, World Vision (INGO) is an American based organization that helps vulnerable children and community development in Sierra Leone. Thirdly, Plan International (NGO) – Sierra Leone is helping put children to school as its main objective, the fourth organization, The Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA), is a governmental agency that is responsible for children and women's affairs in Sierra Leone. These organizations proclaimed to seek intervention during and after the civil wars in Sierra Leone. This research is not by any means an exhaustive evaluation of these institutions, but a way to explore new ways and means to improve their intervention programs. Several structures and relations between support agencies and NGOs were evident in the case studies of this research in Sierra Leone.

To answer the main research questions What have been the effects of interventions by human rights relief organizations on ASCEWs in the civil wars in Sierra Leone? This research investigated the models of services the NGOs and the government

of Sierra Leone provided for ASCEWs. The institutions involved in protecting and caring for children in Sierra Leone claimed to provide individual resources and expert staff under the coordination of UNICEF and the government of Sierra Leone. These services provided collectively during and after the war in Sierra Leone included: Policy advocacy, relief interventions, negotiations to free children trapped behind rebel lines, community education for re-integration of children, HIV/AIDs education, reconstruction of clinics and schools in communities, and Psychosocial counselling of traumatized children. These services were investigated through an interview of the staff members of these institutions.

6.1 United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF).

This section features an excerpt from a transcribed interview from two members of UNICEF staffers. Per unicef.org, the UN General Assembly established UNICEF in 1946 to aid children in Europe following World War II. In 1953, UNICEF became a permanent organization in the UN system and had its functional jurisdiction expanded to include meeting the needs of children throughout the world. The mission of UNICEF is to advocate and work for the protection of children's rights by helping the young meet their basic needs and expand their opportunities to reach their full potential, (unicef.org). A senior staffer of UNICEF reported that, UNICEF works with UN bodies, governments, and other NGOs to promote community based services including health care, education, safe water, and sanitation in over 140 developing countries. During and after the war in Sierra Leone, the staffer continues, "UNICEF set up a process for finding partners by looking at NGOs proposals and if they share the same objectives, such partners must have their own resources." With the government of Sierra Leone, the senior staffer

stated that UNICEF established a four-year programs agreement with the Ministry of Finance. UNICEF – Sierra Leone has had an agreement with the government of Sierra Leone since 1985 working in partnership to strengthen and aid the government programs and systems, a senior staffer concluded. Moreover, a senior UNICEF staffer that I interviewed stated that, some of the programs aided by UNICEF in Sierra Leone are in social issues such as child protection through the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, and Children’s Affairs (MSWGCA). There are also programs in areas like external relations, communication for development, social mobilizations, and behavior change. Another program area of focus in terms of child development is in education through the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology within the Sierra Leone government. UNICEF provided health services which includes, Child Survival and Development (CSD), nutrition, water, and sanitation (WASH), immunization campaign, supporting peripheral health units, and provided medical supplies to health centers. Furthermore, as a developmental International Organization, UNICEF has both international and national staff. The longest served staff person has worked from seven to eight years, and the least longest from two to three years of service. Thus, the senior staffer of UNICEF recommended specific national staff who worked in child protection during and after the war in Sierra Leone, (interview with UNICEF senior staffer, January 27, 2016).

The national Staffer was the second member of UNICEF that I interviewed and has diverse knowledge of the Sierra Leonean war. During my interview with the national staffer, this was what he reported: UNICEF has an organizational mandate to protect children for survival to achieve the good potential of their lives. The protection of children is in all circumstances; during normal times, war, and disasters. Per the national

staff that I interviewed, the involvement of UNICEF during and after the war to help and protect children in the Sierra Leone includes: Advocacy, UNICEF negotiated with the warring factions for the cessation of hostilities so that people could go about their normal lives. Moreover, policy advocacy was among the initiatives undertaken by UNICEF during the war to allow both the government of Sierra Leone and the warring factions to recognize children's rights. UNICEF also worked hard to ensure that children were not recruited into the warring factions, even though it was not possible. The program of reunification was put in place so that children would be released from behind rebel lines and re-united with their families. There were also community education programs during the war on the rights of the child. This program allows parents to bring their children to assess their basic needs of education such as educational materials. In addition, UNICEF established shelters known as Interim Care Centers (ICC) to home those children that were not re-united with their parents, while at the same time tracing the parents. During massive migration, children are always lost from their parents thereby wandering in the wilderness. It is UNICEF's policy that children develop much better with their parents or family members; therefore, UNICEF encouraged foster parents to care for the children while tracing their parents. UNICEF also established women's groups as additional means to facilitate the generations of income to support education, nutrition, and health care services for their children. There was community mediation to allow child soldiers to integrate within their communities. Moreover, health care was provided during the war, the staff continues. Children became vulnerable to acute epidemic disease, therefore, UNICEF set up an immunization programs for the children, made sure that health facilities in accessible areas continued to operate, provided drugs, and train service

providers to target the well-being of children and their families. Nutritional support was also given to those malnourished children during the war by providing community - feeding centers where children were taken daily. HIV/AIDS programs were implemented to prevent children from such disease through peer education, to protect those sexually exploited girls, and to reduce their risks.

Water and sanitation facilities were established in communities and displaced camps to provide children and their families with safe drinking water and health hygiene through the provision of water wells and pit toilets after the war in Sierra Leone. Furthermore, UNICEF provided education. Teaching and learning materials for displaced camp schools was provided through a program called School in the Box. While it is true that children are always traumatized during the war, UNICEF provided recreational facilities such as playgrounds, equipment for soccer clubs, footballs, and reading materials as psychosocial activities to help de-traumatize the children. As educational services were interrupted during the war, which allowed children to overgrow their school age, UNICEF established a community school system after the war known as Rapid Educational System (RES) that provided tuition fees to pupils to double up their course work so these children can match up their school going age. Education and health care remained UNICEF's top priority for the children after the war in Sierra Leone. As a result, UNICEF undertook the renovation and reconstruction of schools and clinics that were burnt down during the war, (Interview with a national staffer of UNICEF, January 29, 2016).

6.2 Challenges faced by UNICEF.

Although UNICEF's intervention strategies were great, the question remains what challenges did UNICEF face in executing its policies? A staff member explained that "security concern was one of the main paramount issues of NGOs and peacekeeper operations in conflict zones. The safety of relief staff was a risk UNICEF undertook during the war." That is, sending the members of staff in the arms way to implement relief operations. Furthermore, capacity building and human resources, in terms of financing other partners when Sierra Leone was in turmoil was challenging. Subsequently, the national staffer continues, monitoring, budget tracking and auditing created the most challenges because partners must be reliable and competent to carry out the intervention projects, (Interview with a national staffer of UNICEF, January 29, 2016).

6.3 Government of Sierra Leone – Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, and Children's Affairs, (MSWGCA).

I interviewed two members of staff in MSWGCA. The first staffer stated that, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs was established in the 1970's as a department of the then Ministry of Social Welfare and Development. In the 1990s, the department became a full Ministry of Social Welfare and Children's Affairs (MSWCA) to protect separated and unaccompanied children as the result of war, and children under difficult circumstances. At that time, the ministry comprised of Social Welfare Directorate, Children's Directorate, Planning Directorate, and Human Resource Directorate. Having realized that it is difficult to address children's issues without including gender, that is women or mothers, the ministry decided to incorporate Gender

Directorate which stands today as Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA), (Interview with MSWGCA administrator, February 2, 2016).

The Mission Statement of the ministry is to promote and protect the rights of women, children, the aged, persons with a disability, and other vulnerable groups through development and review of policies, advocacy coordination with stakeholders, building capacity, and effective monitoring and evaluation to enhance equity for all. MSWGCA vision Statement sees that all Sierra Leonean society where women, men, children, the elderly, and people with a disability live a life of dignity and respect, and are not discriminated against while their human rights are fully protected. They can make their voices heard and are active agents in their own protection, (mswgca.gov.sl). The observation of MSWGCA vision statement is important because Sierra Leone ratified the CRC and moreover, the protection of human rights is part of MSWGCA's objectives. The administrator reported that "MSWGCA's main task during the war was coordination and monitoring of partners." The administrator continued, "The ministry did not donate funding to partners." (MSWGCA staffer, February 2, 2016). The implementing partners were chosen by the MSWGCA through assessing organizations with similar missions, vision and objectives, technical services, members of the staff, capacity, and the resources they should implement services for the war children survivors, he concluded. Other partners were identified by the donor agencies like UNICEF. Together, these partners made sure that policies were put in place. Each partner had its own objectives to fulfil; some established a preparedness plan, while others backed on an emergency response plan that consisted of key roles of the responses mechanism. The second staff person stated that the children's' program was a holistic program in which all partners

collaborated with the MSWGCA to care and protect the children during the war in Sierra Leone. Unfortunately, the staffer reported that, “MSWGCA was considered the least funded Ministries in Sierra Leone with all the responsibilities. With the huge task faced by MSWGCA, it was only during the war that partners of the ministry began to be empowered to support the capacity of the Ministry, (Interview with MSWGCA’s staffer, February 3, 2016).

Furthermore, as a coordinating government agency, MSWGCA’s staff person explained the following activities it partners were involved in Family tracing reunification program which was established by an NGO called the National Tracing Reunification Network (NTRN) and coordinated by the MSWGCA. The statistics of the traced children were sent to the MSWGCA to account for the number of children affected. Unfortunately, statistics on traced children were not available or do not exist as the staffer claimed, due to the damage caused by the war. Also, MSWGCA focused on putting orphan children into shelters known as interim camp where they await reunification through the information network. The Ministry also allowed the involvement of citizens to initiate the adoption of some of the children; however, the staff member of the Ministry mentioned that “children were adopted illegally by concerned citizens without the consent of the Ministry.” The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) was responsible for providing nutritional services for the children affected by war. Furthermore, UNICEF focused on community based reintegration, that is, building new schools, renovating damaged school buildings, and providing water and sanitations. MSWGCA went to the communities to assess community needs in terms of development during which some of the areas included assessment of damaged health care centers,

school buildings, water facilities. These provisions were in line with the reintegration of children in their communities.

Groups of religious institutions such as Muslims and Christians through their leadership did advocacy for the release of children trapped behind rebel lines. One such Christian organization was the Family Home Movement (FHM) through its bishop. FHM provided relief services like food, clothing, and medicine to children behind the rebel lines. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was involved in the negotiation for the accessibility of the children behind the rebel lines. These children would be released and placed in the Center Family Home Movement (CFHM), where they would go through de-traumatized programs before reunification. Moreover, children who were trapped behind rebel lines had their releases negotiated through advocacy education. The MSWGCA and Catholic Relief Development and Social Services organization known as CARITAS (Catholic NGO) reached to the warring factions to educate them about the rights of the child. MSWGCA, the category of children helped during the war included sexually abused girls, child soldiers, orphans, and lost children. The prison probation officer advocated for children who were arrested and placed in maximum prisons for their involvement in war. These children would be released and placed in the Center Family Home Movement (CFHM) where they would go through de-traumatized programs before reunification. This program was in collaboration with UNICEF, World Vision, and Plan International. Community outreach service was part of the programs through community sensitization, one on one dialogue, and focus group discussions to educate community leaders for the acceptance of the children in their communities.

After the war, the UN and other government agencies set up a Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) to heal the wounds and help train the child war survivors in various vocational and skills training like carpentry, masonry, agriculture, and tailoring. For those children who may choose to continue with a formal education, there was an educational facility provided for them at no cost to the children. The program was monitored by the MSWGCA and MSWGCA staff interviewed claimed that the program was successful because most children were skillfully reintegrated into their communities that allowed them to survive on their own. MSWGCA also claimed that most of these children were employed by partner organizations while others were self-employed, although all the members of ASCEWs that I interviewed were unemployed therefore, ASCEWs proved MSWGCA claims untrue. MSWGCA also reported to have been involved in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission program (TRC), a healing process that allows communities to accept things as they happened. There was no evidence of any percentage of participants during the TRC process.

6.4 Challenges faced by MSWGCA.

One of the challenges faced by MSWGA as reported by a second staff person was lack of resources. Per the staffer, “The system of protecting and caring for children in the Sierra Leonean war was not effective due to the lack of resources”. Giving an example, the staff interviewed at the Ministry stated that “the child welfare system in Sierra Leone lacked the standard health care, education, recreation and protection services given to children”. Further, the staffer continued, “policies made are not implemented due to the lack of available resources. “The MSWGCA may advocate good policies but if it lacks the adequate resources to implement them, the children

would not benefit from the limited services” (Interview with MSWGCA staffer, February 3, 2016). Moreover, reintegration of the war- affected children in their communities especially the child soldiers, acceptance was a huge problem due to the kind of atrocities the government claimed they committed. Finger pointing was the order of the day. Furthermore, the staffer pointed out that “there were also many restrictions from the donors on how partners could use the funds provided (if there were any) due to lack of trust.” A staff person stated that “cooperation from other government ministries was lacking” for reasons not indicated. However, as reported, MSWGCA established a network of databases to identify those ministries or agencies that were not working in the best interest of the children, he concluded. For the NGO partners, the Ministry staffer said “MSWGCA would not recommend any NGOs for funding if the ministry found any loopholes in their services.” The staffer confirmed that “when the DDR programs were over, ASCEWs were left on their own because, the MSWGCA felt they were now adults and should be responsible for their own faith” (Interview with MSWGCA staffer, February 3, 2016).

6.5 Plan International – Sierra Leone

Two staff members of Plan International participated in this research interview. The first Plan International staffer narrated as follow: Plan International – Sierra Leone started its operations in-Sierra Leone in 1976 in the Bonbalili district and 1989 in the Moyamba district. Urban programs were adopted in the western areas of Freetown. Plan International’s main objective is to work and serve the children in four domains: To enhance the rights of children in education; this program ensures that children are in school and are encouraged to compete in post primary educations. The improvement of

health care programs was established so that children grow up in a healthy manner, services provided include nutrition, immunization, breastfeeding, and the use of bed nets for the prevention of malaria and other harmful disease. Community based child protection mechanisms were put in place to educate the parents and communities about the rights of child against abuse and violence. Livelihood is another target program undertaken by Plan International which involves educating communities on how to make efforts to generate income to support their children. The combination of these programs is known as Child Center Community Development Program (CCCDP). The staff gave Plan International's mission statement as, "The world in which all children realize their full potentials in society which respects peoples' rights and dignities." Plan International believes that advocating for higher level policy issues can have a great impact on children's' welfare. Thus, Plan International had worked to pass the Child Rights Act (CRA) and the Child Marriage Act (CMA).

The implementation of these policies will help make a difference in many children's lives. That is, Plan International strives to achieve lasting implementations in the lives of children. As far as Plan International is concern, all children are vulnerable in one way or the other depending on the context of the child's situation and or the community and the country they live. One of the vulnerabilities of children is gender related. Secondly, disability populations are often marginalized, while finally, the exclusion of children (such as child combatants) from their communities because of their bad behaviors. Plan International especially in the rural areas where children lack basic services addressed these issues. The staffer reported Plan International implemented the following programs during and after the war: The Capture and Run, and the Family

Tracing and Reunification programs were the two programs put in place by Plan International to advocate to the warlord for the release of children behind rebel lines. Hence these children were released, and they were reunified with their parents, while those who did not remember either their family members nor their district, were placed in a transit camp where basic services were provided to them by Plan International. Plan International embarked on relief operations by providing food, clothing, and shelter for the released children. Moreover, Plan International during the war brought child combatants and placed them in schools. These children went through psychosocial programs to de-traumatize them, which allowed children to attain their normality to start new lives. Plan International helped to resettle children and their families in the various communities. Since child combatants were considered a different category of children, Plan International created incentive programs to train special teachers who would be able to care for them. Classroom management in a displaced setting needed special skills because it was not like normal schools. Vocational training such as carpentry, masonry, and agricultural programs were arranged for the children who needed them. Plan established complementary Rapid Education Program International for those children who were above school going age to cope with the standard or normal school systems. Furthermore, after the war, Plan International helped rebuild and renovate school structures as the government of Sierra Leone made it a priority to allow children to start schooling. Also, provided by Plan International were recreational materials including soccer balls, playgrounds materials, and reading materials, among others were also provided to the children to refresh their memories with new activities. Plan international made sure that children in school must stay healthy, therefore it helps malaria and

waterborne diseases preventions and supported many health care centers around the nation. Subsequently, “after a period, these children were now considered young adults and were let go to shoulder their own responsibility” (Interview with Plan International staff person, February 22, 2016).

6.6 Challenges faced by Plan International.

Plan International staffer stated that during the war, the warring factions never considered who worked for humanitarian NGOs; therefore, security of Plan International staff was paramount. Therefore, “the concentration of helping war affected children was in the urban areas where accessibility to the children was easier” the staffer explained. When these children were released behind rebel lines, Plan International implemented all the above-mentioned programs. Furthermore, Plan International staff person reported that, schedules made by the coordinating partnership limited Plan International’s operational schedule; because all partners work on the same schedule, the speed at which Plan Internationals needed to do its operation was limited.

6.7 World Vision – Sierra Leone

Two representatives from World Vision during my interview. The first staffer of World Vision was a former Child Protection Officer. This was what he said: World Vision started its operation in Sierra Leone in 1996 to deliver emergency relief operations during the war. World Vision was one of the food pipeline agencies that helped the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) with food to regain their dignity. World Vision coordinated operational updates to be able to design operating plans on emerging issues that affected children. World Vision helped to register children back into schools, supported by UNICEF, and documented the released children for family reunification. In

doing so, the community people must be ready to accept the child in their communities because when a child returns home, their safety was the responsibility of all. In addition, the mapping out of institutions where ex-combatants should be placed for skills training and formal schooling was World Vision's responsibility. Subsequently, the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) was a program facilitated by government of Sierra Leone to reintegrate all child combatants in the country. World Vision participated in the DDR program to make sure that each child was provided with a start-up kits provided by DDR program. That is, if a child did vocational training in carpentry, the DDR program provided each child with carpentry tools to start with. Moreover, World Vision concentrated on developmental programs by rebuilding the communities for the reintegration of children and their families after the war. In the light of these efforts, World Vision embarked on water and sanitation projects to provide the communities with clean drinking water, renovated health centers, and school structures in communities where children were integrated. After reintegrating the children and their families, World Vision helped empower parents economically through its livelihood and agricultural programs, (Interview with World Vision staffer, March 24, 2016).

The administrator of World Vision was the second person I interviewed. The administrator gave a brief background of World Vision as follows: "World Vision is an international partnership of Christians whose mission "is to follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in working with the poor and oppressed to promote human transformation, seek justice, and bear witness to the good news of the Kingdom of God. And the Vision of World Vision is for every child, life in all its fullness, our prayer for every heart, and the will to make it so." Per the administrator, World Vision as a child focused

organization that played an important role in helping the plight of the children who conscripted within the fighting forces or children who were reintegrated into their communities, (Interview with World Vision administrator, March 29, 2016). World Vision started its operations in-Sierra Leone during the war in 1996 as follows: The administrator continued that World Vision collaborated with UNICEF, Save the Children, MSWGCA, and Children Of War (COW), a local NGO to implement Community Reintegration Programs (CRPs). The CRPs job was to advocate through community mobilizations, for the release of children who were conscripted by the warring factions. This was done through engaging the media, CBOs, and local NGOs, (Interview with World Vision administrator, March 29, 2016)

6.8 Challenges faced by World Vision

The first staffer of World Vision outlined the challenges faced by World Vision. He noted that World Vision's major challenge was the reintegration of ex-combatants in their communities. Since members of ASCEWs were traumatized thereby behaved violently, Further, he suggested that World Vision faced a difficult task in engaging the leaders of ex-local militias to control the behaviors of their members in the communities. Finally, there was the difficult challenge of setting up Child Welfare Committees to ensure the safety of ex-combatants.

Chapter Seven

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

War to this research means nothing, but destruction of life and property, and this research has established that fact. Children were affected, their rights abused, and there was not adequate protection and care for them. I decided to treat UNICEF separately since it is considered a donor United Nations (UNs) agency responsible for the welfare of children worldwide; under which all other NGOs operated during and after the war in Sierra Leone. The result of my research concludes that there were inadequate services, partiality in services, and lack of proper coordination among the organizations that proclaimed to have helped protect and care for Adult Survivors of Childhood Exposure to War in Sierra Leone (ASCEWs). The services of World Vision and Plan International, Sierra Leone were necessary but ineffective and inadequate due to the following reasons: 1) the services provided were not spread across the country that would allow the involvement of all vulnerable children during and after the war to benefit; 2) there were overlapping activities in their model of services resulting in waste of resources; 3) since ASCEWs are now considered young adults, the Sierra Leone government and the NGOs left them to survive on their own; 4) these institutions claimed to focus on reconstruction of the communities and other developmental programs, failing to realize that people should be taken care of first if they want the communities to function well; 5) the vulnerability of these ASCEWs allowed the NGOs and the Sierra Leone government to pay less attention to them; 6) the philosophy that the children committed the greatest

atrocities on the nation's population, therefore, they were not worthy of receiving benefits for their actions.

Ultimately, the concentration of the NGOs and other service providers on certain parts of the country, leaving most parts of the country's population underserved prevented ASCEWs to benefit from NGOs interventions. The NGOs claimed they were serving the entire country when their operational areas are only a fraction of the country. The areas the NGOs served were only one fourth of the country (see map of Sierra Leone) and the population they served was a fraction of the country's total population, which led to the poor intervention in the civil war in Sierra Leone. The research found out that little was done to help and protect ASCEWs during and after the wars due to improper strategic planning, government failure to execute its full function as a host country, lack of coordination among the organizations, and security risks involved in accessing the areas of service during the war among others. All the respondents I interviewed were disappointed in the NGOs and government services they presumed to have rendered them and continue to ask the International Community to come to their aide.

Typically, the government of the affected country is responsible for the conduct of disaster relief operations in their countries, and other actors are obliged to abide by the laws of the countries in which they are operating (Balcik, Beamon et al, 2010). This especially happens when the country is involved in corruption. Unfortunately, Balcik, Beamon et al (2010), mentioned that "the government may lack the necessary experience and knowledge required to manage emergencies effectively." As government agency, MSWGCA lacked relief experience to coordinate the activities of the other partners in

Sierra Leone. The actions of MSWGCA therefore led to the overlapping of the interventions thereby wasting the resources. Seaman as quoted by Balcik, Beamon et al, (1999) says “in the situation in which the government is either non-functional or dysfunctional, the role of relief actors is often unclear.” The MSWGCA in Sierra Leone was dysfunctional and therefore depended on the NGOs for their intervention that was responsible for inadequate services given to ASCEWs while the weakness of the UN contributed to the abuse of ASCEWs rights. Warring factions without any prosecutions abused ASCEWs’ provision rights, protective rights, and their participations rights mentioned in this research.

Per Save the Children, “While men are more likely than women to participate in conflict, young girls and women are often the most victimized in armed conflicts. Repressive attitudes toward them intensify. They are vulnerable to rape and sexual violence. Women captured in armed conflicts by militia groups may be distributed as war booty among fighters.” Sexual abuse of some members of ASCEWs was established in this research. “Captives girls could not save themselves or other girls whether in the villages or in the camps from sexual violation” (Honwana, 2006). This was because denial to have sex with either execution threatened rebel or military soldier. For these girls to save their lives and survive the suffering during the war, saying no was not an alternative. A sexually abused respondent established this fact in the oral history of this research. The type of services (DDR) government of Sierra Leone claimed to have given to ASCEWs is proven to have been ineffective; leaving the ASCEWs suffering to date.

The components of the DDR programs seem to be impressive and interesting for the combatants to participate with enthusiasm. The question remains how effective was

the DDR and to what extent does it benefit the intended population? Per (Faltas, Sami & Peas, (2005), “Traditional Technical and Vocational Education and Training Programs (TTVET) are not always effective to promote employment of young people.” This is well evident in this research because none of the respondents admitted benefiting vocational trainings from the DDR programs conducted by the government of Sierra Leone making it ineffective and inefficient. In fact, members of ASCEWs reported that the training period was short to achieve. Solomon and Ginifer (2008) study shows that “DDR’s potential to improve human security was not fully realized due to poor levels of funding, uncoordinated planning and ineffective short –term reintegration activities that contributed to unemployment and poverty among segments of combatants’ population” (2008). The effect of inadequate services given to ASCEWs does not only affect their dignity as individuals, but it also affects the dignity of their families and the communities in which they live. Solomon and Ginifer (2008) study was important because it gave three variables for the poor implementation of the DDR program in Sierra Leone: That the DDR program lacked a clear monitoring and follow-up mechanism at the community or individual level, and no corrective measures were designed to assist ex-combatants who had failed to reintegrate (2008). The specific needs of vulnerable groups were inadequately catered to in the planning. Many women and girls were considered dependents. Moreover, the sustainable plans were not demonstrated in the programs; short period of training, delays in payments, creation of unemployment and lack administrative efficiency (2008). Finally, the DDR program was a people- driven program, meaning it generally perceived as a foreign –drive exercise that largely ignored the needs and concerns of local communities and ex-combatants (2008).

As this research investigates, the justification of success of the DDR program in Sierra Leone as proudly claimed by its government did not provide me with their independent statistics. When I asked for the ministry's statistics, the only excuse as mentioned earlier in this research was "The documents were burnt down during the war" said by one staff from the MSWGCA. William (1995), a researcher on *Corruption and State Politics in Sierra Leone* lamented that a recent documentary sources in Sierra Leone are even more scarce; that is, visitors go to the government bookstores and find the shelves stocked with old documents from 1950s to 1960s, moreover, comparable reports from 1980s were either missing or appear in much slimmer volumes, because government officers "omit economic data." Even the NGOs could not provide statistics on their interventions in Sierra Leone civil war when I requested for them. The NGOs joined the government to put the blame on the war, when in fact NGOs have computerized databases on their operations on the go. However, an officer from MSWGCA admitted that there was a loss of the documents on child war survivors, but claimed to have created a database on the Ebola victims so that such mistake will not be repeated. The fundamental findings in this research is that even though some services were given to ASCEWs during the war, there was inadequate services given to ASCEWs after the war because these organizations feel members of ASCEWs are now young adults to take care of their own affairs. Furthermore, since ASCEWs committed atrocities during the war, they were considered by Sierra Leone government as perpetrators rather than victims, thereby denying ASCEWs the services they deserved.

7.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The International Community should adopt a comprehensive convention on war-affected children so they can benefit after the end of any civil war. As witnessed in this research, war-affected children like ASCEWs were not adequately helped to self-sufficiency after the war. Therefore, they continue to suffer. Secondly, the United Nations should establish an international children's court (if not already established) that should be responsible for bringing the warring factions to justice for recruiting and exploiting the rights of the child. The International Community should however discourage other countries who hold their national sovereignty as a pretext for isolating themselves from external human rights pressure. The claim of sovereignty by most countries is an excuse to abuse the rights of these children and claim to be part of their constitutional rights. All countries must be responsible for abusing the rights of their citizenry. Furthermore, the United Nations Security Council should avoid the veto power when mass atrocities are committed against people. The bureaucracy of the United Nations Security Council especially, when veto power invested in United States, United Kingdom, China, Russia, and France are used may prevent the adoption of any important resolutions, thereby allowing more atrocities to occur. Such veto power is undemocratic. To adequately service war-affected children, host African countries in the civil wars should not be responsible for coordinating intervention activities because they do not have the resources and the experience like the NGOs do to carry out such activities. Subsequently, the NGOs should encourage the Community Based Organizations and the indigenous NGOs to implement the projects at grassroots level. Since these local organizations are operating within their communities, they should know

what is best for their communities rather than the International Non-Governmental Organizations. This method will allow more populations to benefit from NGOs' services. In addition, since culture and tradition affects children, the NGOs should include cultural/ traditional programs in their strategies when reintegrating the children in their communities. Mobility is an important part of human movement. When amputees lack sure movement, the stigma of war affects them, I suggest that NGOs provide with ASCEWs the prosthetic devices to help them ease their movements.

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- <http://www.unicef.org/sowc96/11protec.htm> <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html> <http://www.unicef.org/slcrisis/>
- <http://www.myilibrary.com.ezproxy1.lib.asu.edu?ID=615168>>

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

INTERVIEW REQUEST LETTER

Michael I Bockarie
Arizona State University Phoenix, Arizona
United States of America.
Tel: 6024764767 imdebock@yahoo.com

June 18, 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

Letter of Interview Request

I am writing to request for an interview with you and other members of your organization to obtain some relevant information regarding the topic "What have been the effects of interventions by human right relief organizations on young child survivors of the decade long war in Sierra Leone.

I am a 2nd year Social Justice and Human Right Master's student at the Arizona State University majoring in human rights advocacy and Non-governmental organizations (NGO) management. I am required to submit a thesis project on the above-mentioned topic for my graduation.

I have been following your organizations dynamic progress in advocating of children and I am very impressed with Plan International's performance. It would be my honor if you can share some of your advocacy information with me to assist me in writing my thesis. The information which you provide me shall be used in the strictest confidence. I look forward to hearing positively form you soon.

Thanking you in advance.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Bockarie
Student, SJHR – MA

INTERVIEW REQUEST LETTER

Michael I Bockarie
Arizona State University
Phoenix, Arizona
United States of America.

Tel: 6024764767
imdebock@yahoo.com

June 29, 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

Letter of Interview Request

I am writing to request for an interview with you and other members of your organization to obtain some relevant information regarding the topic "What have been the effects of interventions by human right relief organizations on young child survivors of the decade long war in Sierra Leone.

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Yours sincerely,



Michael Bockarie
Student, SJHR – MA

INTERVIEW REQUEST LETTER

Michael I. Bockarie
Arizona State University
Phoenix, Arizona
United States of America.

Tel:6024764767
imdebock@yahoo.com

June
29,
2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

Letter of Interview Request

I am writing to request for an interview with you and other members of your organization to obtain some relevant information regarding the topic "What have been the effects of interventions by human right relief organizations on young child survivors of the decade long war in Sierra Leone.

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I have been following your government's dynamic progress in advocating for children and I am very impressed with the government of Sierra Leone's performance. It would be my honor if you can share some of your advocacy information with me to assist me in writing my thesis. The information which you provide me shall be used in the strictest confidence. I look forward to hearing positively from you soon.

Thanking you in advance.

Yours sincerely,



Michael I. Bockarie

Student, SJHR - MA

INTERVIEW REQUEST LETTER

Michael I Bockarie
Arizona State University
Phoenix, Arizona
United States of America.

Tel: 6024764767
imdebock@yahoo.com

August 4, 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

Letter of Interview Request

I am writing to request for an interview with you and other members of your organization to obtain some relevant information regarding the topic "What have been the effects of interventions by human right relief organizations on young child survivors of the decade long war in Sierra Leone.

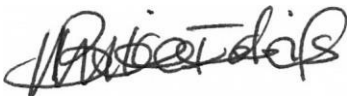
I am a 2ⁿ year Social Justice and Human Right (SJHR) Master's student at the Arizona State University majoring in human rights advocacy and Non-governmental organizations (NGO) management. I am required to submit a thesis project on the above-mentioned topic for my graduation.

I have been following your organization's dynamic progress in advocating for children and I am very impressed with the United Nation Childrens Fund's performance not only in Sierra Leone but in other parts of the world. It would be my honor if you can share some of your advocacy information with me to assist me in writing my thesis. The information which you provide me shall be used in the strictest confidence.

I look forward to hearing positively from you soon.

Thanking you in advance.

Yours sincerely,



Michael I. Bockarie
Student, SJHR – MA

APPENDIX B

INTERVIEW REQUEST ACCEPTANCE LETTER

unite for
children



26th August 2015

Mr. Michael Bockarie

Dear Mr. Bockarie,

Thank you for your letter requesting a research interview with UNICEF Sierra Leone Representative, Geoff Wiffin, during your research trip end 2015 / early 2016. Mr. Wiffin is happy to accord you some of his time to answer questions you may have, although as mentioned the office no longer has programme activities related to the civil conflict, and Mr. Wiffin only arrived in country in 2015.

However the meeting will hopefully be useful for you to find out about how UNICEF works, and then there are likely to be other members of staff, Sierra Leonean nationals, who can share with you their experiences of the immediate post-war period.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John James".

John James
Communications Specialist, Head of External Relations & Advocacy

Tel: +44 2033579278/9 Ext: 3001, Mob: +232 76102401, Email: jjames@unicef.org

INTERVIEW REQUEST ACCEPTANCE LETTER



Plan International
Sierra Leone
6 Cantonment Road
Off Riverside Drive
Freetown

Tel: + (232) 79 250953
Mobile: + (232) 22 235060
Email: Sierra-Leone.CO@plan-
international.org
www.plan-international.org

June 23rd, 2015

Michael I Bockarie
Arizona State University
Phoenix, Arizona
United States of America.

Dear Michael,

Acceptance of Interview Request

Reference to the interview request letter received on June 18, 2015, I acknowledge the receipt of your letter requesting Plan International Sierra Leone to share information with you in researching your thesis topic "What have been the effects of interventions by human rights relief organizations on young child survivors of the decade long war in Sierra Leone".

I accept your request on behalf of my organization and express my willingness to work with you through your research process. Your research result will help non-governmental organizations such as ours to re-visit our policies and measure our successes through information you will share with us. This difference will allow the non-governmental organizations family better serve not only child survivors but the children of Sierra Leone as a whole. I am looking forward to working with you soon.

Sincerely yours

Taplima Muana 
Emergency Response Manager
Plan Sierra Leone
+232 76 640103



National Organisations Australia Belgium Canada Denmark Finland France Germany Japan Korea Netherlands Norway Spain Sweden Thailand United Kingdom United States
Program countries Albania Bangladesh Benin Bolivia Brazil Burkina Faso Cambodia Cameroon China Colombia Dominican Republic Ecuador Egypt El Salvador Ethiopia Ghana
Guatemala Guinea Guinea Bissau Haiti Honduras India Indonesia Kenya Malawi Mali Nepal Nicaragua Niger Pakistan Paraguay Peru Philippines Senegal Sierra Leone Sri Lanka Sudan
Tanzania Thailand Togo Uganda Vietnam Zambia Zimbabwe

INTERVIEW REQUEST ACCEPTANCE LETTER



World Vision

Sierra Leone

35 Wilkinson Road
PMB 59
Freetown
Sierra Leone

Tel: +232 76 862391

www.worldvision.org

25th June 2015

To Whom It May Concern

Acceptance of Interview Request

This is with reference to the interview request letter received on June 18, 2015. I acknowledge the receipt of your letter requesting my organization to share information with you in researching your thesis topic "What have been the effects of interventions by human rights relief organizations on young child survivors of the decade long civil war in Sierra Leone.

I confirm on behalf of my organization my willingness to work with you through your research process. I am more than happy to be of service to you should you need further assistance. I hope you will enjoy your stay in Sierra Leone and look forward to working with you soon.

Sincerely yours



Mattia Koi Dimoh
Operations Director

INTERVIEW REQUEST ACCEPTANCE LETTER



Office of the Chief Social Services Officer
Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs New
England Ville, Freetown, Sierra Leone

9th July 2015

Michael I. Bockarie
Arizona State University Phoenix,
Arizona
United States America

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

With reference to the above subject matter, I hereby acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 29th June 2015 requesting interview with the Ministry and other child Protection partners on the effect of child survival interventions of the decade civil war in Sierra Leone.

This study is viewed as relevant in generating policy evidence on strengthen, successes and challenges that will foster the development and adoption of systematic interventions in the short and long terms to prevent and respond to social justices and human right issues in Sierra Leone, especially in child protection.

Looking forward to successful experiencing sharing meeting with you.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph S. Sinnah
Chief Social Services
Tel: +232-76-757296/

Email: jsinnah@mswga.gov.sl / sunday.sinnah@gmail.com

Skype: joseph. sinnah

APENDIX C

VERBAL CONSENT FORM – STAFF MEMBERS

The effects of interventions by human rights relief organizations on young child survivors of the 1991-2002 civil wars in Sierra Leone

I am a graduate student under the direction of Professor Duku Anokye in the Social Justice and

Human Rights Master's program at Arizona State University's New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences. I am conducting a research study to investigate what efforts the human right relief organizations have made to adequately protect and care for the young child survivors during the 1991 to 2002 civil war in Sierra Leone.

I am inviting your participation, which involve answering a set of research questions as members of staff of Plan International – Sierra Leone, World Vision – Sierra Leone, Government of Sierra Leone and UNICEF – Sierra Leone of your challenges in protecting and caring for war child survivors in the 1991 – 2002 civil wars in Sierra Leone. The interview is expected to last for approximately one hour for each participant. You have the right not to answer any question, and to stop participation at any time.

This is a verbal consent in which your participation in this study is voluntary. If you choose not to participate or to withdraw from the study at any time, there will be no penalty; it will not affect any of your benefits. In order to participate in this research, a staff member of the human rights relief organization and government representative must be 25 years and above.

There is no monetary benefit in this study. However, the human rights relief organizations will benefit by having access to new data that can support their effective administering of services to child survivors. The benefit to the researcher is the completion of the thesis in fulfillment of a master's degree in Social Justice and Human Rights. Staff members will not receive financial compensation for their efforts.

Your responses will be confidential. Results of this research will be shared with government, NGO's, and other human rights relief organizations in de-identified form for reports, presentations, or publications, but your name will not be known.

I would like to audio record the interview. The interview will not be recorded without your permission. The audio recordings will be transcribed and data stored on the researcher's personal computer hard drive and flash drive protected by password. The Principal Investigator would also store the data on Arizona State University encrypted

server protected by her password. Subsequently, the audio recordings will be stored on electronic devices like cassette tapes or voice recorders stored at room temperature and the audio recordings will be destroyed one year upon completion of the study.

If you have any questions concerning the research study, please contact the research team at aanokye@asu.edu/6025436020 and

Michael.Bockarie@asu.edu/01123277852720. If you have questions about your rights as a subject/participant in this research, or if you feel you have been placed at risk, you can contact the Chair of the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board, through the ASU Office of Research Integrity and Assurance, at 480-965 6788.

Please let me know if you wish to participate.

VERBAL CONSENT FORM – WAR CHILD SURVIVORS

The effects of interventions by human rights relief organizations on young child survivors of the 1991-2002 civil wars in Sierra Leone

I am a graduate student under the direction of Professor Duku Anokye in the Department of

Social Justice and Human Rights at the Arizona State University's New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences. I am conducting a research study to investigate what efforts the human right relief organizations have made to adequately protect and care for the young child survivors during the 1991 to 2002 civil war in Sierra Leone.

I am inviting your participation, which will involve answering a set of research questions about your experiences as war child survivors of the 1991 to 2002 civil war in Sierra Leone. The interview is expected to last for approximately one hour for each participant. You have the right not to answer any question, and to stop participation at any time.

This is a verbal consent in which your participation in this study is voluntary. If you choose not to participate or to withdraw from the study at any time, there will be no penalty; it will not affect any of your benefits. In order to participate in this research, a child survivor participant must be between 19 -30 years old.

There is no monetary benefit in this study. However, the benefit for participants is the knowledge of possibly contributing to better services for child war survivors like themselves. The benefit to the researcher is the completion of my thesis in fulfillment of a master's degree in Social Justice and Human Rights. War child survivors will not receive financial compensation for their efforts.

Your responses will be confidential. Results of this research will be shared with government, NGO's, and other human rights relief organizations in de-identified form for reports, presentations, or publications, but your name will not be known.

Child survivors may feel discomfort answering questions about their experiences with these organizations. You may skip questions and stop participations at any time.

I would like to audio record the interview. The interview will not be recorded without your permission. The audio recordings will be transcribed and data stored on the researcher's personal computer hard drive and flash drive protected by password. The Principal Investigator would also store the data on Arizona State University encrypted server protected by her password. Subsequently, the audio recordings will be stored on

electronic devices like cassette tapes or voice recorders stored at room temperature and the audio recordings will be destroyed one year upon completion of the study.

If you have any questions concerning the research study, please contact the research team at aanokye@asu.edu/6025436020 and

Michael.Bockarie@asu.edu/01123277852720. If you have questions about your rights as a subject/participant in this research, or if you feel you have been placed at risk, you can contact the Chair of the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board, through the ASU Office of Research Integrity and Assurance, at 480-965 6788.

Please let me know if you wish to participate.

APPENDIX D

INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH BUREAU APPROVED LETTER



APPROVAL: EXPEDITED REVIEW

Akua Anokye Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies, School of
602/543-6020 Akua.Anokye@asu.edu

Dear Akua Anokye: On 11/12/2015 the ASU IRB reviewed the following protocol:

Type of Review:	Initial Study
Title:	The effects of interventions by human rights relief organizations on young child survivors of the 1991-2001 civil war in Sierra Leone.
Investigator:	Akua Anokye
IRB ID:	STUDY00003371
Category of review:	(6) Voice, video, digital, or image recordings, (7)(b) Social science methods, (7)(a) Behavioral research
Funding:	None
Grant Title:	None
Grant ID:	None

INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH BUREAU APPROVED LETTER

Documents Reviewed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Subject ProtocolData, Category: IRB Protocol; • Consent Form.pdf, Category: Consent Form; • Research Interview Questions, Category: Measures (Survey questions/Interview questions /interview guides/focus group questions); • Translation Certificate, Category: Recruitment Materials; • Plan International - Sierra Leone Acceptance Letter, Category: Off-site authorizations (school permission, other IRB approvals, Tribal permission etc); • Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs, Category: Off-site authorizations (school permission, other IRB approvals, Tribal permission etc); • World Vision - Sierra Leone Acceptance Letter, Category: Off-site authorizations (school permission, other IRB approvals, Tribal permission etc); • Consent Form.pdf, Category: Consent Form; • Recruitment Methods, Category: Recruitment Materials; • UNICEF - Sierra Leone Acceptance Letter, Category: Offsite authorizations (school permission, other IRB approvals, Tribal permission etc);
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The IRB approved the protocol from 11/12/2015 to 11/11/2016 inclusive. Three weeks before 11/11/2016 you are to submit a completed Continuing Review application and required attachments to request continuing approval or closure.

If continuing review approval is not granted before the expiration date of 11/11/2016 approval of this protocol expires on that date. When consent is appropriate, you must use final, watermarked versions available under the "Documents" tab in ERA-IRB.

In conducting this protocol you are required to follow the requirements listed in the INVESTIGATOR MANUAL (HRP-103).

Sincerely,

IRB administrator cc: Michael Bockarie

APPENDIX E
GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACRWC -	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child,
ADRA -	Adventure Relief Agency
AFSL-	Armed Forces of Sierra Leone
AI -	Amnesty International
ASCEW –	Adult Survivor of Childhood Exposure to War
CARE -	Cooperation for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CBOs -	Community based organizations
CCCDP -	Child Center Community Development Program
CDF -	Civil Defense Forces
CFHM -	Center Family Home Movement
CHR -	Civil Human Rights
CMA -	Child Marriage Act
CPN -	Child Protection Network
CRA -	Child Rights Act
CRC -	Conventions on the Rights of the child
CRPs -	Community Reintegration Programs
CRS -	Catholic Relief Services
CSD -	Child Survival and Development
CSOs -	Civil Society Organizations
CWFL -	Convention on the Worst Forms of Labor

DDR -	Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration
FHM	Family Home Movement
GCS -	Global Civil Society
GDP -	Gross Domestic Product
GIGO -	Global International Governmental Organization
ICRC -	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDPs -	Internally Displaces Persons
IHRL -	International Human Rights Law
ILO -	International Labor Organization
IRB -	Institute of Research Bureau
MSWGCA -	Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, and Children's Affairs
NATO -	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NaCSA-	National Commission for Social Action
NeSPE -	Network Support for Peace and Education
NGOs –	Non – Governmental Organizations
NTRN -	National Tracing Reunification Network
RES -	Rapid Educational System
RUF -	Revolutionary United Front
TRC -	Truth and Reconciliation Commission program
TTVET -	Traditional Technical and Vocational Education and Training Programs
UN –	United Nation
UNDP -	United Nations Development Program

UNHCR -	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UDHR -	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNICCPR -	United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
UNICEF -	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH -	Water and Sanitation
YMCA -	Young Men's Christian Association