

OUR WORLD. VIEWS FROM THE FIELD.

LIBERIA

OPINION SURVEY, 2009

A second set of research results will be released in August to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions.



Our world is in a mess.
It's time to make your move.

Ipsos



ICRC

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June 2009



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Executive Summary

Executive Summary

This research was undertaken in eight countries that are currently experiencing or have experienced armed conflict or other situations of armed violence. The aim was to develop a better understanding of people's needs and expectations, to gather views and opinions, and to give a voice to those who have been adversely affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence.

The eight country opinion surveys will be complemented by more in-depth research (qualitative survey).

This research has been commissioned by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) within the framework of the **Our world. Your move.** campaign. Launched in 2009, the campaign's goal is to draw public attention to the vulnerability and ongoing suffering of people around the world. The intention is to emphasise the importance of humanitarian action and to convince individuals that they have the ability to make a difference and reduce suffering.

2009 is an important year for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement with three significant anniversaries (the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Solferino, the 90th anniversary of the founding of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions).

The Impact of Armed Conflict

Forms of Violence/Suffering and their Consequences

Very few people in Liberia have escaped unscathed by the 14 years of internal armed conflict, and events are still very vivid in their minds. Fully 96% of respondents claim to have personal experience of the events.

Of those with direct experience, a very high proportion were forced to leave their home (90%), lost contact with a close relative (86%), had their home looted (83%), had food taken away by combatants (76%) or had serious damage inflicted on their property (74%).

A high proportion of them had even more harrowing experiences – such as losing a family member (69%), being humiliated (55%), being tortured (45%), or having somebody close to them fall victim to sexual violence (51%).

Their greatest fears include displacement (37%), loss/destruction of property (35%), the inability to earn a living (29%), the loss of a loved one (23%) and sexual violence (22%).

Needs and Assistance

People in conflict areas need, most of all, 'basics' such as food (90%), medical treatment (69%) and shelter (58%). Which groups or organisations should meet these needs?

Help and support come from a variety of entities, led by the parents and families of those affected, and followed by organisations such as the ICRC, the Liberia National Red Cross Society (hereafter the Liberian Red Cross) and the UN.

These organisations have a good reputation for understanding people's needs. Most who have received help from them say they understood their needs 'completely'.

Obstacles to Receiving Help

The main barriers to receiving aid are corruption (81%), the black market (52%), discrimination (51%) or geographical inaccessibility (41%).

Sometimes people are simply unaware that help is available (26%) – but only 5% say that it is declined because it is not needed.

Reducing Suffering

To 'reduce suffering during armed conflict', people look to international organisations. The UN comes first to mind for 40% of Liberians, the ICRC and the Liberian Red Cross combined for 15% of Liberians, and other humanitarian organisations for 11%. Other local organisations appear to play a more marginal role.

Half the respondents (52%) say the ICRC or the Liberian Red Cross play some role.

The International Community

Liberians often seek a direct role for the international community. Most (65%) support peacekeepers, and many want emergency aid (40%) or military intervention (37%).

The population is also seeking a more long-term commitment having an impact on armed conflict (for example, political pressure or by organising peace talks/negotiations).

People living outside the conflict zone (i.e. citizens in other countries) are encouraged to donate money (61%), apply political pressure (48%), support an aid organisation (47%) or become volunteers (43%).

Introduction

Introduction

The Solferinos of Today

To raise awareness of the impact of armed conflict or other situations of armed violence on civilians, the ICRC decided to launch a vast research programme. This research focused on some of the most troubled places in the world – the Solferinos of today – which are either experiencing situations of armed conflict or armed violence or suffering their aftermath:

- Afghanistan
- Colombia
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
- Georgia
- Haiti
- Lebanon
- Liberia (covered in this report)
- The Philippines

Research

The ICRC commissioned Ipsos, a polling firm, to conduct quantitative (statistical) research surveys in all eight countries. A broadly representative sample of the adult general public was interviewed, either in person or by telephone, in each country. The specific sampling methods and any groups/areas excluded are described in the relevant country reports.

The aim of the questions – given in full together with overall results in the appendices – was to determine whether the respondents had personal experience of armed conflict or armed violence and, if so, the specific impact it had on them. Questions also explored respondents' views on what conduct is acceptable for combatants, the effectiveness of various groups and organizations in helping to reduce suffering during armed violence, the actions expected of the international community, awareness of the Geneva Conventions, and the role of health workers during armed conflict/violence.

Details of the survey carried out in Liberia are given in the next section.

The eight Ipsos national surveys were but one element of a broader research programme undertaken by and for the ICRC, which also involved:

- **Statistical research carried out (by Ipsos) on the basis of the results of the eight national surveys.** This has yielded powerful insight into the experiences and opinions of civilians in some of the most troubled places in the world. The work was co-ordinated by the Ipsos office in Geneva.
- **In-depth (qualitative) research.** This has enabled the ICRC to deepen its understanding of the values, motivations, fears and aspirations of those who have been direct victims of armed conflict or armed violence. The research was carried out through focus groups and one-to-one in-depth interviews moderated by ICRC staff.

Those covered include people separated from other members of their families, displaced people, first respondents and others directly affected by armed conflict or armed violence.

In 1999, ICRC carried out broadly similar opinion research as part of its People on War project. The programme covered some of the countries being reported on in 2009 – including Liberia – and several of the 1999 questions have therefore been revisited in order to provide trendlines. These are highlighted in the report where applicable.

Background & Objectives

The year 2009 has great significance for the ICRC and the entire International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement ("the Movement"), as two major anniversaries in the history of humanitarian work will be celebrated:

- **The 150th anniversary of the Battle of Solferino** (24 June 1859). Exactly 150 years ago, Henry Dunant, a Swiss businessman, happened to witness the aftermath of one of the most brutal battles of the 19th century – at Solferino, in what is now northern Italy – and the carnage left on the battle field. The suffering he saw there prompted him to take the first steps towards the creation of the Movement. His book *A Memory of Solferino* led to the founding of the ICRC in 1863. In recognition of his work, Dunant was the joint first recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, in 1901.
- **The 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions** (12 August 1949). The four Geneva Conventions are the cornerstone of international humanitarian law. They protect, respectively, wounded and sick members of armed forces on the battlefield; wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea; prisoners of war; and civilians in time of war.

To mark these anniversaries, as well as the 90th anniversary of the founding of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Movement launched a campaign – **Our world. Your move.** – to remind everyone of their individual responsibility to relieve human suffering.

The campaign is based on the premise that **Our world** faces unprecedented challenges, from conflict and mass displacement to climate change and migration; it contends that **Your move** reminds us of our collective responsibility to make the world a better place. Like Henry Dunant, we can all make a difference, even through the simplest of gestures.

Throughout 2009, the ICRC will be undertaking various activities to mark both these historic milestones, by highlighting the ongoing plight of people – particularly those who are most vulnerable – caught up in armed conflict or armed violence around the world.

Liberia – Research Methodology

A total of 500 people aged 18 or over were interviewed in person (face-to-face) in the month of February 2009. Random probability sampling was used to ensure that the final sample would be broadly representative of the Liberian population (aged 18 years or over) as a whole in terms of geographic province. In addition, the results have been statistically 'weighted' by sex and province to correct for any slight differences between the sample profile and that of the equivalent population.

According to 2009 estimates, Liberia's population is around 3,500,000. It is skewed towards younger people (the median age is 18, and those aged 14 or below make up 44% of the population). By contrast, those aged 65 and over make up 3% of the population. Liberia has the sixth highest mortality rate, and the 11th highest birth rate in the world. Life expectancy is 41 years for men and 43 years for women.

Because a sample was interviewed – not the whole population – the results are subject to 'sampling tolerances'. These show how accurately a result from the sample reflects the result that would have been obtained from the whole population had it been interviewed.

Please see the appendices for details on sampling tolerances.

On the charts, a '**' sign refers to a percentage of less than 0.5%, but greater than zero.

- **Report Structure**

The report has been written to be accessible and relevant.

An Executive Summary with the main findings is followed by the main body of the report, covering each broad subject area in turn. Charts in the report draw on the overall findings from the Liberia survey and on a selection of key sub-group comparisons (e.g. between men and women, and Christians and Muslims – although for the latter caution should be taken due to the low sample).

The appendices contain the sample profile and 'marked up' questionnaire (i.e. the full questions, with overall results for Liberia added in).

Please note that no country comparisons are made in this report. (These can be found in a separate Summary Report covering all eight countries.)

Liberia in Context

Liberia was founded by freed slaves from America and the Caribbean, called Americo-Liberians, in 1820, and thus became the first African republic. Liberia is mostly made up of indigenous Africans, with the slaves' descendants comprising around 5% of the population.

The West African nation was relatively calm until the late 1980s, when arbitrary rule and economic collapse culminated in armed conflict. In April 1980, Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe, from the Krahn ethnic group, staged a military coup and seized power. Doe's rule was challenged in December 1989 by President Charles Taylor, plunging the country into an armed conflict that would later be known as one of Africa's bloodiest, claiming the lives of more than 200,000 people and further displacing a million others into refugee camps in neighbouring countries. Fighting intensified as rebel groups splintered and battled each other, the Liberian army and West African peacekeepers. In 1995 a peace agreement was signed, leading to the election of Mr Taylor as president. Anti-government fighting broke out in the north of the country in 1999. Under intense US and international pressure President Taylor stepped down in 2003 and went into exile in Nigeria. This move paved the way for the deployment by ECOWAS of what became a 3,600-strong peacekeeping mission in Liberia (ECOMIL). Leaders from the Liberian government, the rebels, political parties, and civil society signed a comprehensive peace agreement that laid the framework for a National Transitional Government of Liberia. In September 2003, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1509 establishing a peacekeeping operation under Chapter VII authority (UN Mission in Liberia, UNMIL). In November 2005, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was elected the first female president of Liberia and in Africa. She took office on 16 January 2006, ending two

years of transitional government. The conflict left the country in economic ruin and teeming with weapons.

Today's Liberia has not been spared by the worldwide increases in prices of basic commodities. These have jeopardized the positive effects of debt relief and poverty reduction measures.

The country still depends heavily on international support to overcome economic problems and the legacy of its violent past. UNMIL's 12,000 civilian and military personnel provide security. The potential for unrest remains, given rampant unemployment and the slow pace of demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of former fighters. Violent disputes over land ownership are also on the rise. The humanitarian landscape is changing as aid organizations and NGOs leave or cut back their activities and development agencies move in. Despite progress towards recovery, much remains to be done to improve the population's still limited access to basic services.

The ICRC in Liberia

The ICRC has worked in Liberia since 1970. It opened its operational delegation in Monrovia in 1990.

Since the onset of the first war in 1990, the ICRC has adopted a public health approach to the situation. To help avert epidemics in the besieged city of Monrovia, it has had engineers and medical personnel work hand in hand to restore infrastructure, such as the urban water supply and electricity, and support the health system. During the last war of 2003, ICRC surgical teams treated the war wounded at JFK Hospital, where the organization also provided medications and specialized medical equipment.

The ICRC has endeavoured to carry out extensive health care and water and sanitation programmes in Liberia combined with shelter and income projects to provide people with better access to health facilities and clean water.

In 1991, the ICRC's first tracing activities were conducted in Liberia. The ICRC arranged family reunifications and distributed Red Cross messages enabling family members to stay in touch with each other. Hundreds of Liberian Red Cross volunteers collected and distributed messages between people displaced within Liberia and between Liberian refugees in Ivory Coast, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

The ICRC has also carried out regular visits to people detained in Liberia in connection with the civil war with the aim of monitoring and improving their treatment and conditions of detention.

The year 2009 is a turning point for the ICRC in post-conflict Liberia, as it switches its focus from protection and assistance to activities promoting the inclusion of international humanitarian law and human rights law in the training programmes of the newly established Liberian armed, police and security forces. The ICRC will also work with the authorities to enhance their understanding and acceptance of international humanitarian law and to press for its national implementation. Priority will also be given to helping the Liberia National Red Cross Society fulfil its responsibilities in the changing context and strengthening the image of the Red Cross in the country.

Over the course of 2009 the ICRC will phase out its assistance projects involving health care, water and sanitation, economic security and shelter in areas where large numbers of returnees now reside. Priority will be given to helping communities and authorities to assume

their responsibility for basic services and to sustain community facilities constructed or repaired by the ICRC. ICRC projects have given a major boost to the resumption of staple food production and to efforts to help returnees and residents restore their livelihoods.

The ICRC provides support for the Liberia National Red Cross Society and promotes international humanitarian law among the armed forces present in Liberia.

Part 1 – The Impact of Armed Conflict

Part 1-The Impact of Armed Conflict

Personal Experience of Armed Conflict

- **Virtually everyone (96%) in Liberia has experienced – and hence has been affected in some way by – armed conflict. Very large numbers report having to face issues such as:**
- **having to leave their homes, having their homes looted, serious damage to their property or combatants taking food away;**
- **loss of contact with close relatives, or a member of a person’s immediate family having been killed during the armed conflict.**

The overall experiences reported are almost identical among men and women, with exceptions in just a few cases (see below), while the Christian population seems to have been more exposed to the armed conflict than the Muslim population (98% vs. 86%).

Understandably, older people are most likely to report such experiences (close to 100%) – but 18-24 year olds follow very closely (95% report personal experience).

Respondents who have been personally affected by conflict report a wide range of traumatic experiences covering either personal loss or issues relating to homes or possessions.

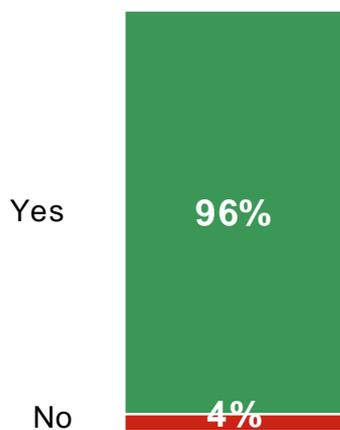
- Nine out of ten (90%) had to leave their homes to live elsewhere; nearly as many had their homes looted (83%);
- Three quarters (76%) had food taken away by combatants, and around the same proportion experienced serious damage to their property (74%).

Significant numbers of people report even more harrowing situations.

- Almost nine out of ten (86%) lost contact with a close relative;
- Almost seven in ten had a member of their immediate family killed during the armed conflict (69%);
- About half of the respondents had been humiliated (55%), tortured (45% – predominantly men 50% vs. women 39%) and/or claimed somebody they knew well was a victim of sexual violence (51%);
- Two in every five say they were wounded by the fighting (40%);
- Nearly one third report being imprisoned (30%) and over a quarter being kidnapped or taken hostage (26%).

Personal experience of armed conflict

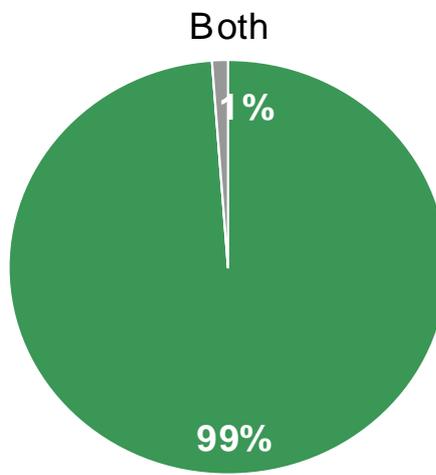
Q1. Have you personally experienced armed conflict, or not?



Experience

Base: All respondents (500)

Q2. Was this in Liberia or was it somewhere else?



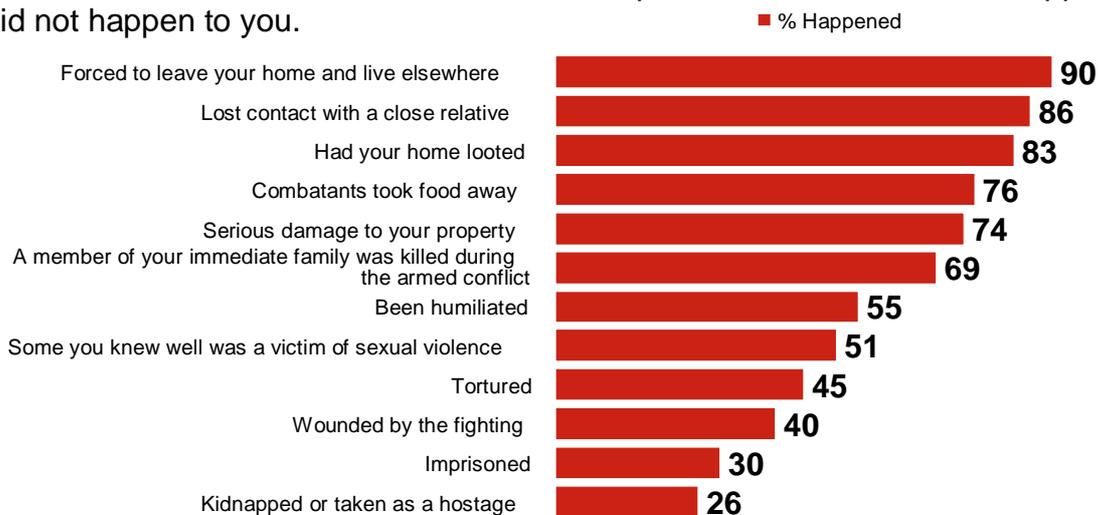
In Liberia

Base: All experiencing armed conflict (477)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

Personal impact of armed conflict

Q3. I'm going to ask you about your actual experiences during (how you yourself have been affected by) the armed conflict in Liberia. Please tell me whether any of the following things happened to you personally or did not happen as a consequence of the armed conflict in Liberia. For each one, please indicate whether it happened or did not happen to you.



Base: All who have experienced armed conflict (477)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

And when were people most recently affected by the conflict?

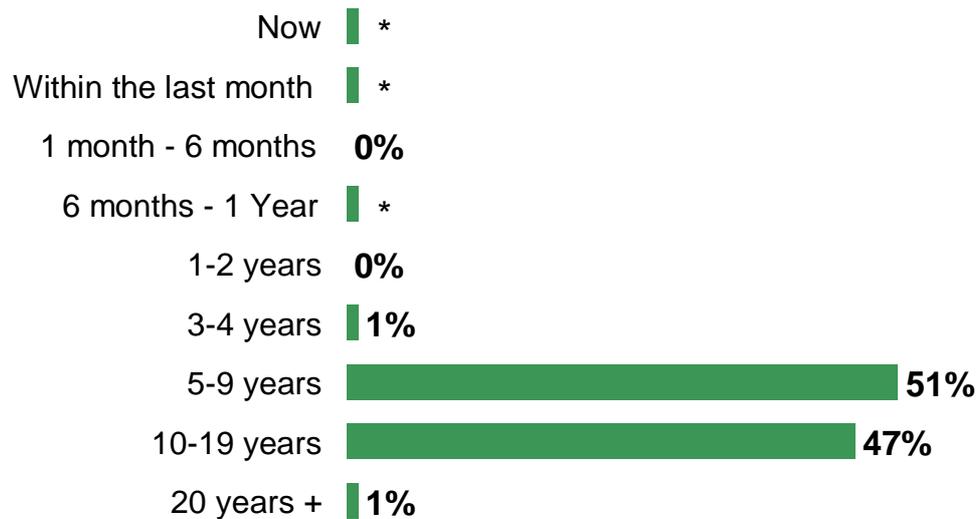
For the vast majority it was some time ago: 5-9 years ago (51%) or 10-19 years ago (47%)

Liberians were mostly affected by the armed conflict some time ago – either 5-9 years ago (51%) or 10-19 years ago (47%) – in line with the two major armed conflicts affecting the country. The first Liberian armed conflict occurred between 1989-1996 and the second between 1997 and 2003.

This also suggests that the situation has improved in the country since the two peaks of armed conflict.

Recent experiences

Q5. And when were you personally most recently affected by this armed conflict in Liberia?



Base: All who have experienced / been affected by conflict in any way (478)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

People's Greatest Fears

In Liberia, people's 'greatest fears' relate to their being undermined or losing control of their lives – rather than to direct physical harm.

For women, sexual violence is one of the greatest fears (33%).

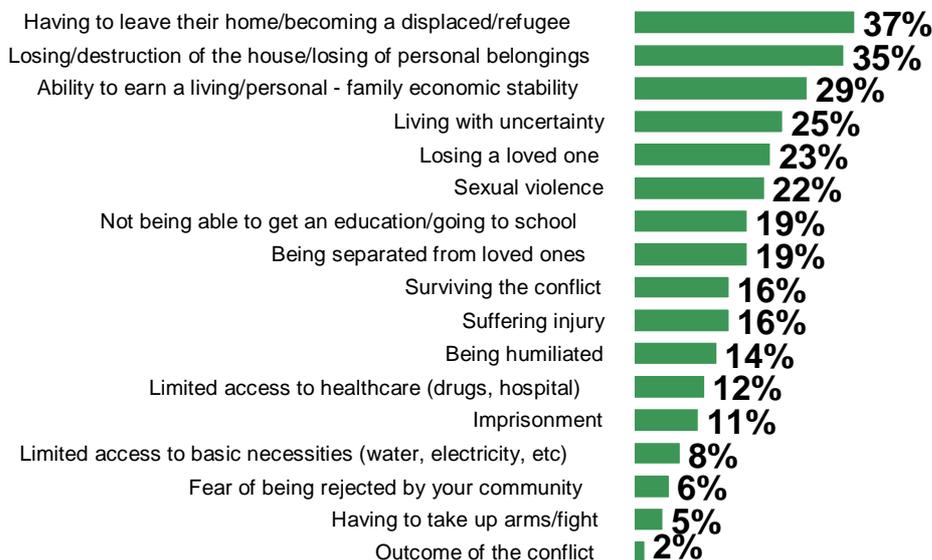
For Liberian people:

- 37% fear having to leave their home/becoming displaced/a refugee;
- 19% fear being separated from loved ones;
- 35% fear losing/destruction of their house or the loss of personal belongings;
- 29% (36% of young adults aged 18-24) fear not being in a position to earn a living – in other words are concerned about personal or family economic stability and hence living with uncertainty (25%);
- losing a loved one (23%) and sexual violence (22%) represent other significant fears;
- there does not appear to be much fear of limited access to basic necessities (such as water, electricity) and to health care (8% and 12% respectively). These are of even less concern among women.

The fear of sexual violence (33%) represents the second most important fear for women – second only to the fear of having to leave home, becoming displaced or becoming a refugee (36%). At the other end of the spectrum, concerns such as limited access to basic necessities and to health care are more commonly cited as important by men than women (12% vs. 3% and 15% vs. 8% respectively).

People's greatest fears

Q6. What do you think are the two or three greatest fears people are facing in a situation of armed conflict in Liberia?



Base: All respondents (500)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

Feelings as a Consequence of Armed Conflict

How does armed conflict change people's state of mind?

Greater wisdom and heightened sensitivity appear to result from armed conflict (83% and 70% respectively).

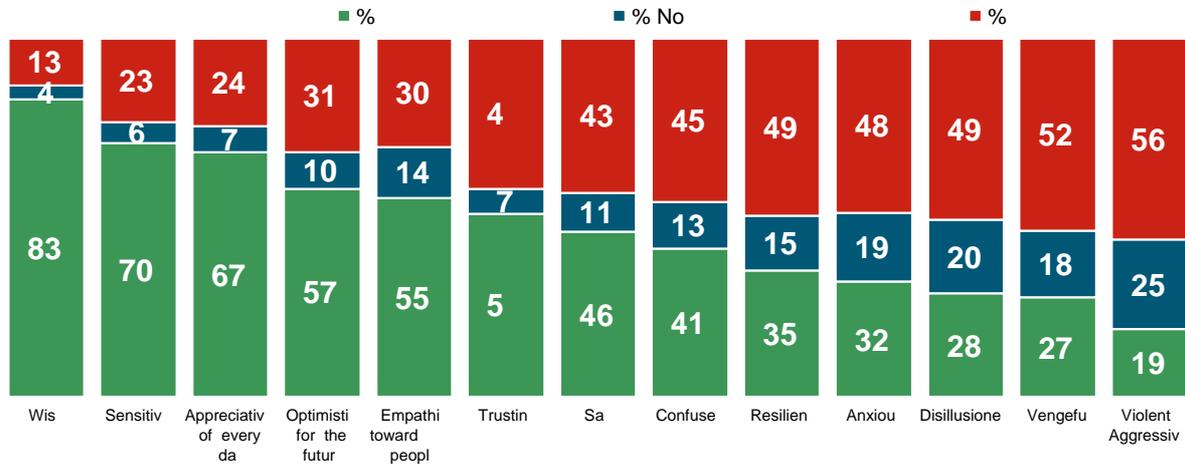
The top three responses as to how armed conflict changes people's state of mind are that conflict makes people wiser, more sensitive and more appreciative of every day. In addition, people claim that conflict has made them feel personally less violent/aggressive and less vengeful.

In addition, more than half of the respondents (57%) say they are more optimistic about the future (outnumbering the 31% who are less so) and hence less disillusioned (49%, as opposed to 28% who are more so).

The experience of armed conflict has also engendered more empathy towards other people (55%).

Feelings as a consequence of armed conflict

Q8. Now I would like to ask you about whether the armed conflict has changed the way you feel. For each description I read out, please say whether the armed conflict has made you feel more this way, less this way, or has it made no real difference. First [...], would you say it has made you more [...], or has it done neither?



Base: All who have experienced / been affected by conflict in any (478)
Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "do not know" response

Civilians' Needs in Armed Conflict

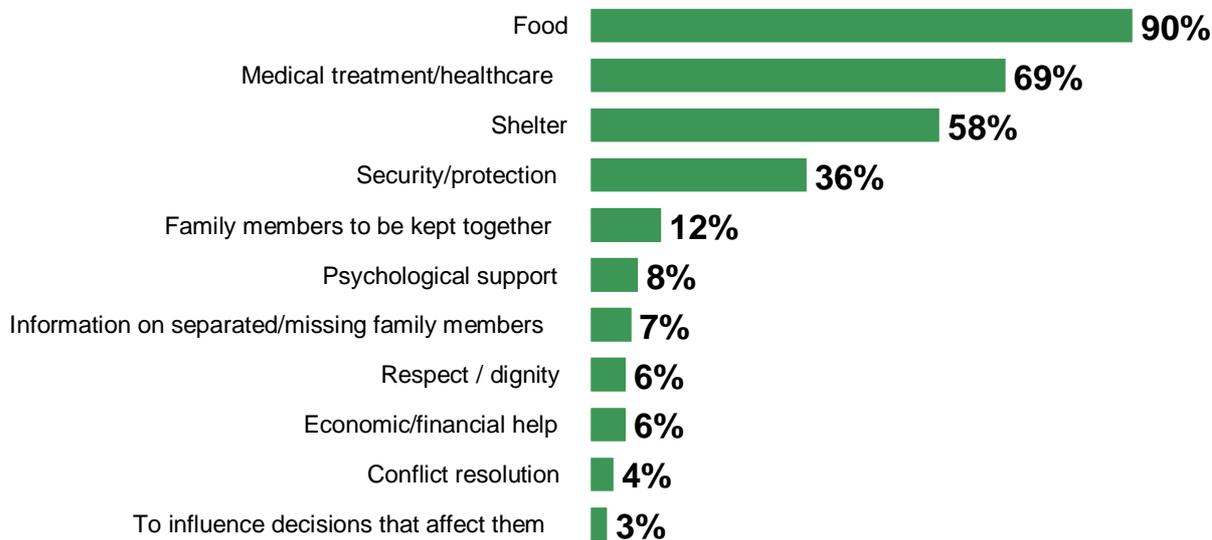
First and foremost, people need 'the basics'. Nine in ten refer to food as the greatest need (90%), whilst over two thirds mention medical and health care (69%), and over half see shelter as a basic and immediate need (58%).

- Food represents by far the number one need as 90% of the people choose this as one of the most important requirements for civilians living in areas of armed conflict.
- In addition to food, medical treatment/health care (69%) and shelter (58%) are the two other basic and immediate needs that civilians living in areas of armed conflict have.
- Protection/security (36%) is also mentioned by a significant proportion of people, but still by far fewer than mention basic needs. This is in spite of the high proportion of people who claimed to have suffered torture, sexual violence or humiliation.

Other, non-basic needs, mentioned by around one in 10 Liberians or fewer, include the need for family members to be able to stay together, and the need for information about separated/missing family members. The need for psychological support and for respect and dignity elicits a similar level of response.

Civilians' needs

Q7. What do you think civilians who are living in areas of armed conflict need the most? Please select the three most important to you.



Base: All respondents (500)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

Help & Support from Entities/Institutions

Where do people turn for help during armed conflict?

Help comes from a variety of sources, including parents and families (76%), the UN (75%) and the Liberian Red Cross and the ICRC (combined 67%). These groups – in the same order – are also seen to be the best at understanding people's needs.

Whilst people report help coming principally from parents and families, the UN, and the Liberian Red Cross and the ICRC, respondents also report receiving help or support from NGOs (63%), from the individuals living in their community (47%) and religious entities (47%).

However, the help and support received from the government appears to be relatively minimal (17%) – at the same level as military/army/combatants.

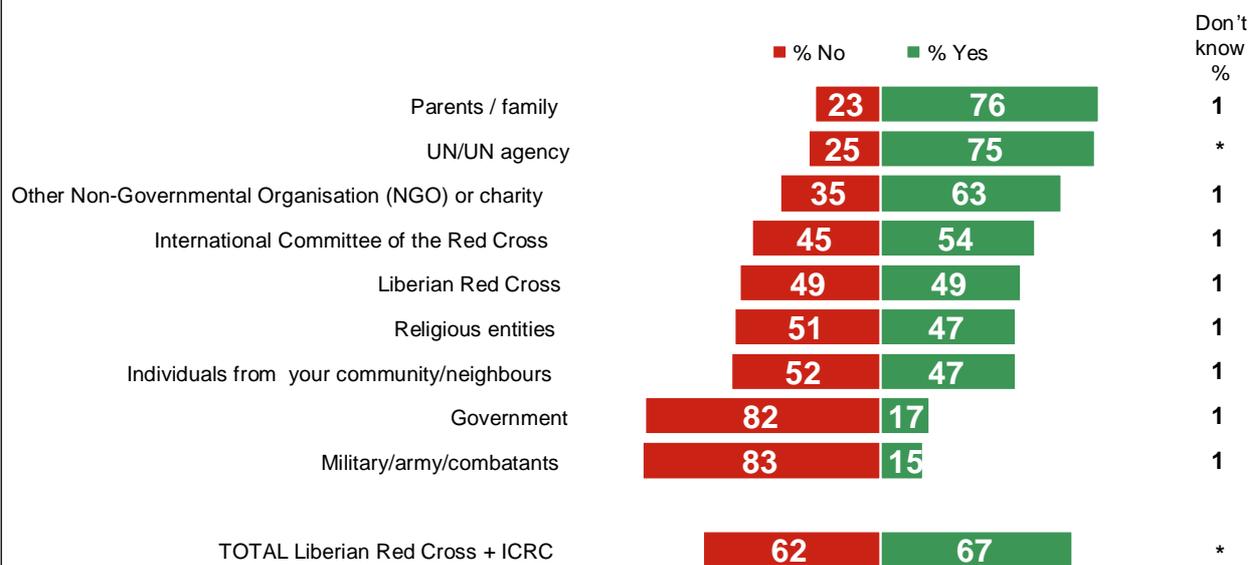
Regardless of who delivers help and support, it usually appears to be in line with people's needs. A high proportion of people (about 50% or more) say that the groups/organisations delivering aid completely understand people's needs. Parents and family are seen to best

understand the needs of those affected (87% completely understand people's needs), followed closely by the Liberian Red Cross and the ICRC (72% combined).

It is most often men who are the recipients of support (perhaps on behalf of their families) from the ICRC, the Liberian Red Cross and the government. Men and women are equally likely to receive help from other entities, including parents/family and religious entities.

Help and support

Q9. During the time you experienced or were being affected by armed conflict, did you receive help or support from any of the following?

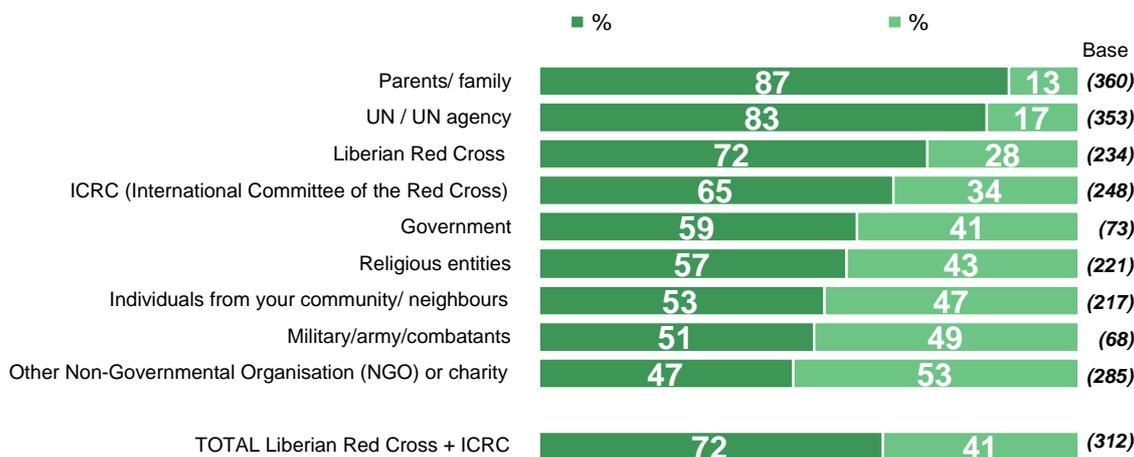


Base: All who have experienced / been affected by conflict in any way (478)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

Help and support

Q10. For each of the types of organisations or people you mentioned receiving help or support from, I would like you to tell me how well you felt they understood your needs. First, the [type of support at Q9]... do you feel your needs were completely understood, partially understood, or not understood at all?



Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

Barriers to Receiving Help

When people do not receive support during periods of armed conflict, it is due to a variety of obstacles. Corruption is the obstacle encountered most (81%). Only 5% say that help and support has been refused because it is not needed.

Respondents cited the most significant barriers to receiving/accepting help and support as being corruption (81%), the black market (52%), discrimination (51%) and geographical inaccessibility (41%).

Although less prominent, lack of knowledge is mentioned by a quarter of the people (26%) – suggesting some potential for improvement in this area.

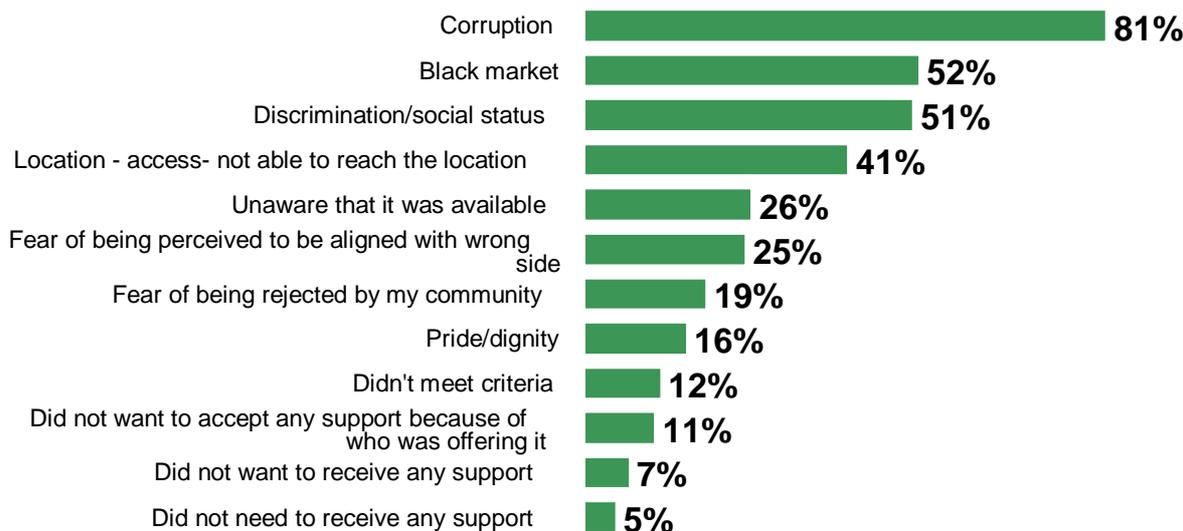
When people decide not to receive help, it is usually a decision to some extent forced on them – whether for fear of being perceived to be aligned with the wrong side (25%) or of being rejected by their own community (19%). Pride and dignity (16%) also play a role.

Overall, men and women share similar views regarding the barriers to receiving or accepting help and support.

People seldom decide not to receive any help/support. When they do, it is because of those who were offering it (11%), the fact that they did not want to receive any support (7%) or that they did not need any support (5%). The low proportion of people not accepting help is of course a reflection of the fact that a very high proportion were in need of such support.

Barriers to receiving help

Q11. Which, if any, of the following reasons do you think may have prevented people in Liberia receiving or accepting help or support during armed conflict?



Base: All respondents (500)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

Reducing Suffering

In terms of reducing suffering during armed conflict, people clearly consider the international organisations to be the most effective.

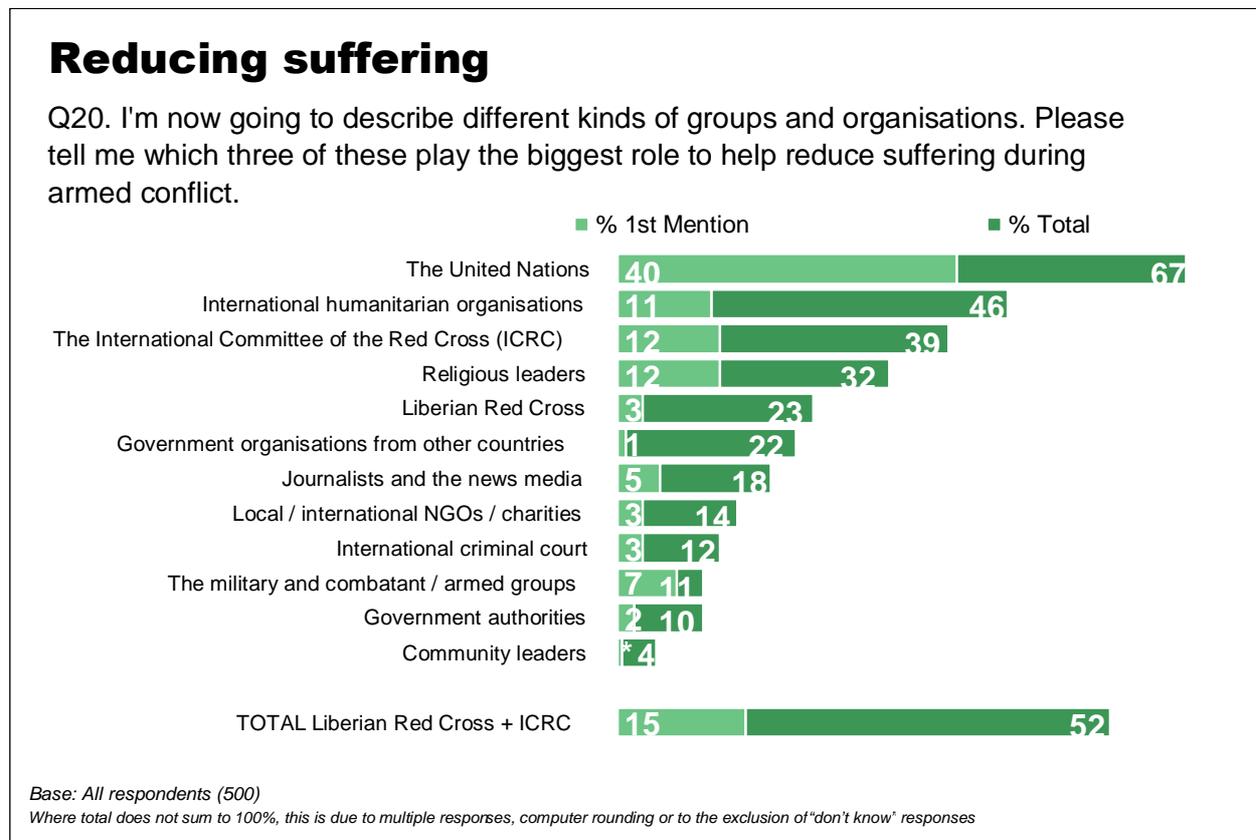
A range of groups and organisations can provide support to people in times of armed conflict. In terms of specifically reducing suffering in these circumstances, external and international organisations appear to play the biggest role.

The UN is the entity that comes to mind first for the people of Liberia (40%), followed by other international organisations (including the ICRC (12%)).

This predominance of international organisations is also reflected at the Red Cross level, where more people consider the ICRC (12% first mentions) than the Liberian Red Cross (3%) to play a big role.

With the exception of religious leaders (12%), local entities appear to play a marginal role. For example, just 2% mention government authorities first, and less than 1% think of community leaders first.

Men and women share very similar views on this.



The Role of External Actors

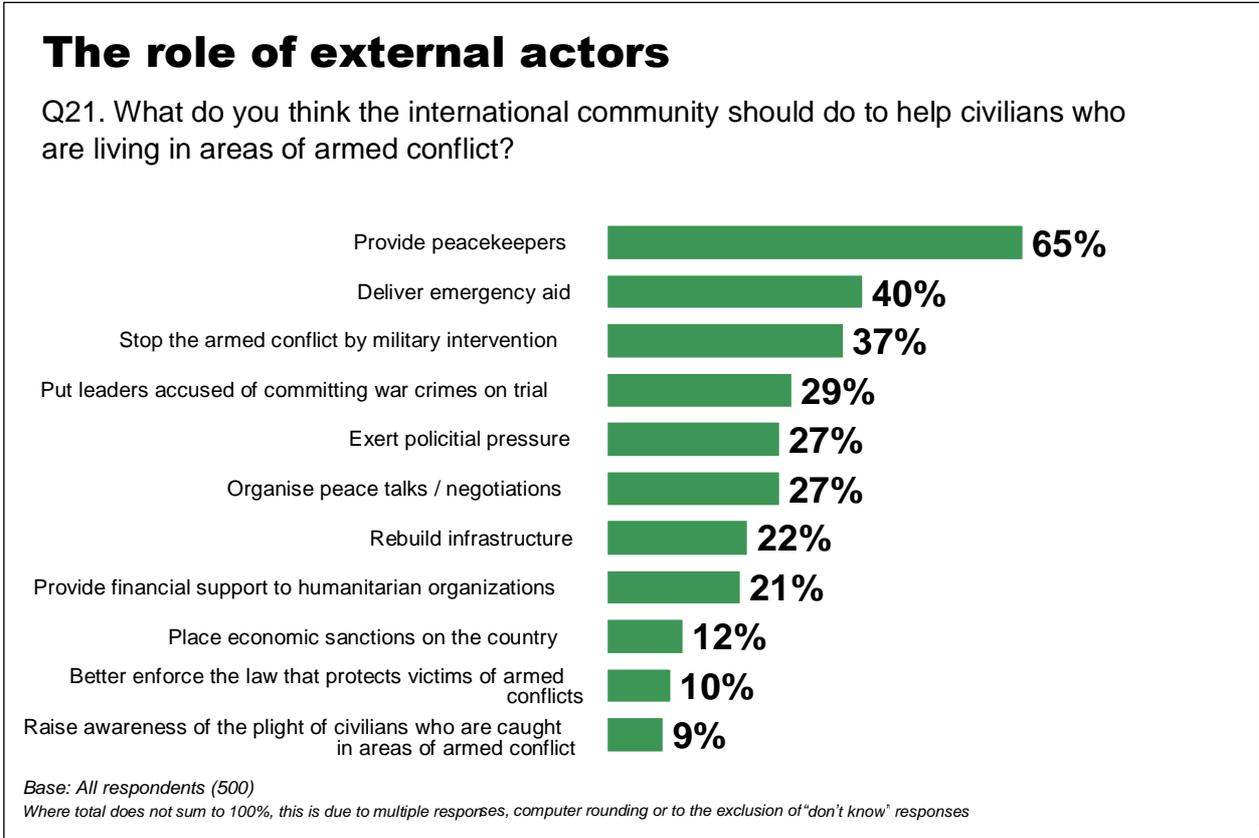
People in Liberia want the international community to make its presence felt directly in the country, by various means.

- By providing peacekeepers (65%);
- By delivering emergency aid (40% – 45% of men);
- By stopping armed conflict through military intervention (37%).

Beyond these three very tangible and immediate actions, people are also looking for more long-term engagement to:

- Influence the armed conflict itself – including by exerting political pressure (27%), organising peace talks/negotiations (27%) and ultimately bringing leaders charged with war crimes to trial (29%);

- Address the consequences of the armed conflict – for example by rebuilding infrastructure (22%) or by providing financial support to humanitarian organizations (21%) to ultimately alleviate the impact of the conflict.



And what should the role of people living outside the conflict zone (in other words citizens in other countries) be in helping victims of armed conflict?

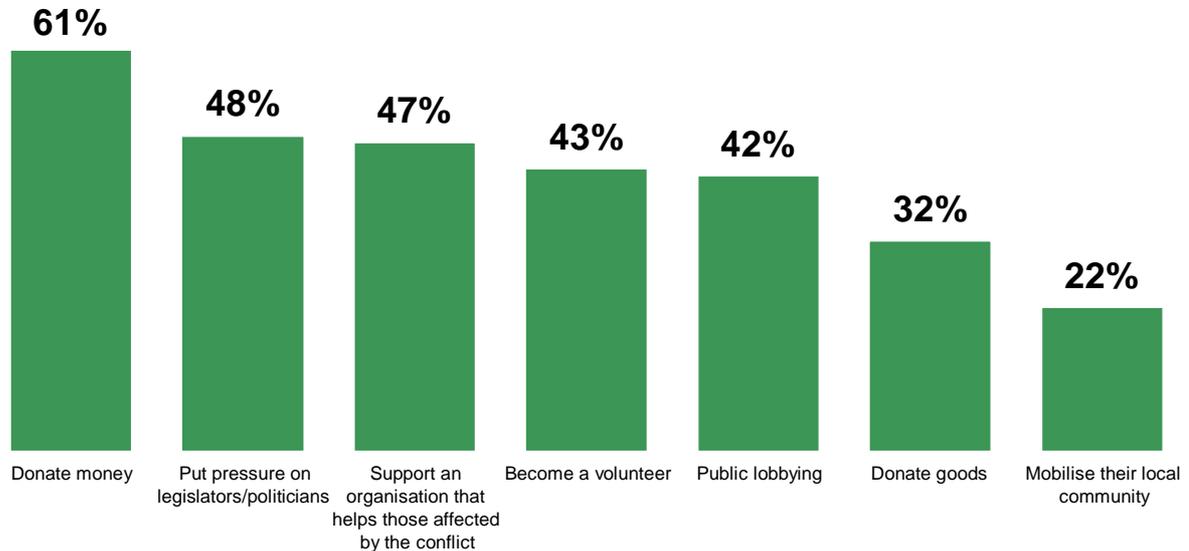
Their role should be to donate money (61%) to help meet the population's basic needs (food, shelter, medical) and, secondarily, to donate goods (still a sizeable 32% – 36% among men).

In addition, social/individual involvement is perceived as a source of help/support that people living outside the conflict zone can provide. Applying political pressure (48%), supporting an aid organisation (47%) or becoming a volunteer (43%) are examples of such involvement.

Just 22% of Liberians see the mobilisation of the local community as something for people living outside the conflict zone to help with.

Support from the wider world

Q22. What, if anything, do you think people living outside of conflict zones can do that would most help victims of armed conflict in Liberia? Please select the three you feel are most important.



Base: All respondents (500)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

This summary represents the views of respondents regarding the impact of armed conflict or armed violence on their lives. Part 2 of this research study will focus on what respondents think of international humanitarian law (IHL) and their views on behaviour during armed conflict. Part 2 will be published in August 2009 to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions.

Appendices

Appendices

Sample Profile

Liberia (Weighted Profile)		
	N	%
Total	500	100
Gender		
Male	253	51
Female	247	49
Age		
18-24	146	29
25-29	109	22
30-34	84	16
35-39	56	11
40-44	44	9
45-49	21	4
50-64	34	7
65 or over	6	1
Cities		
Tubmanburg	20	2
Gbarnago	42	7
Buchanan	28	5
Robertsport	21	4
Wwedru	17	6
Barcleyville	7	2
Voinjoma	41	7
Kakata	31	5
Harper	13	4
Monrovia	109	24
Greenville	14	3
Kolela	7	1
David slema	8	1
Palela	4	1

Fairgrown	6	1
Loysville	4	1
Foyah	21	3
Firestone	28	6
Ganta	60	13
Buxhrod island	12	3
Cesstos city	7	2
Province		
Bomi	20	2
Bong	53	9
Grand bassa	38	6
Grand cape mont	21	4
Grand gedeh	17	6
Grand kru	7	2
Lofa	62	10
Margibi	39	6
Maryland	13	4
Montserrado	149	33
Nimba	60	13
Rivercess	7	2
Sinoe	14	3
Area		
Urban	410	83
Rural	90	17
Religion		
Christian	392	80
Muslim	92	17

Sampling Details

Sampling tolerances vary with the size of the sample and the percentage figure concerned. For example, for a question where 50% of the people in the full sample of 500 give a particular answer, the chances are 95 in 100 that this result would not vary by more than 4 percentage points plus or minus (ie between 46% and 54%) from the result that would have been obtained from a census of the *entire* population (using the same procedures).

Some examples of the tolerances that may apply in this report are given in the table below.

Approximate sampling tolerances applicable to percentages at or near these levels (at the 95% confidence level)			
<i>Unweighted base (500)</i>	10% or 90% ±	30% or 70% ±	50% ±±
Size of sample on which survey result is based (unweighted)			
500 (All respondents)	3	4	4
243 (Men affected by armed conflict)	4	6	6
149 (Montserrado people affected by armed conflict)	5	7	8
<i>Source: Ipsos</i>			

Tolerances are also involved in the comparison of results between different elements (sub-groups) of the sample. A difference must be of at least a certain size to be statistically significant. The table below shows the sampling tolerances applicable to comparisons of sub-groups within the research.

Differences required for significance at the 95% confidence level at or near these percentages			
<i>Unweighted base (500)</i>	10% or 90% ±	30% or 70% ±	50% ±±
Size of 2009 sub-groups (unweighted)			
243 (Men affected by armed conflict) vs. 235 (Women affected by armed conflict)	5	8	9
<i>Source: Ipsos</i>			

Ipsos / ICRC

“Our World: Views from Liberia”

Marked-Up Questionnaire

- Interviews with 500 people
- Aged 18+
- Conducted Face to Face, between the 22nd of February and the 28th of February 2009
- Results are weighted
- 'POW' indicates a question also asked in 1999
- An asterisk (*) indicates a result of less than 1% (but not zero)
- A "n/a" denotes "not asked"
- Base for each question is all (500), unless shown otherwise

INTRODUCTION

Good morning/afternoon/evening. I am from RMS, an independent social research agency. We are conducting interviews in this area would like your help with this. The interview will last around 15 minutes and is about your experiences and opinions on the armed conflict in Liberia.

AA) ON CONFLICT IN GENERAL

ASK ALL →

Q1. Have you personally experienced armed conflict, or not?

		%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	96
<input type="checkbox"/>	No	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Refused	0

ASK IF YES AT Q1 →**Q2. Was this in Liberia, or was it somewhere else?**

	<i>Base: All experiencing armed conflict at Q1 - 477</i>	%
<input type="checkbox"/>	In Liberia	99
<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhere else (specify)	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Both	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	0

ASK IF YES AT Q1 →

Q3A. I'm going to ask you about your actual experiences during the armed conflict in Liberia. Please tell me whether any of the following things happened to you personally or did not happen as a consequence of the armed conflict in Liberia. For each one, please indicate whether it happened or did not happen to you. (POW)

<i>Base: All experiencing armed conflict at Q1 - 477</i>	Happened	Did Not Happen	Don't know	Refused
	%	%	%	%
Forced to leave your home and live elsewhere	90	10	0	0
Imprisoned	30	70	*	0
Kidnapped or taken as an hostage	26	73	1	*
Tortured	45	54	1	0
Been humiliated	55	43	1	*
Lost contact with a close relative	86	13	0	*
A member of your immediate family was killed during the armed conflict	69	30	0	*
Serious damage to your property	74	25	*	0
Wounded by the fighting	40	58	1	0
Combatants took food away	76	21	3	0
Had your home looted	83	16	*	0
Somebody you knew well was a victim of sexual violence	51	47	2	*
<u>ROTATE STATEMENTS BELOW HERE SEPARATELY AFTER OTHERS</u>				
No or very limited access to basic necessities (water, electricity, etc.)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
No or very limited access to healthcare	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lost all my belongings	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lost my means of income (e.g. job, revenue, farm land, etc.)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
The area where I lived came under enemy control	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

ASK IF NOT "YES" AT Q1 →

Q3B. I'm going to ask you about how you yourself have been affected by the armed conflict in Liberia. Please tell me whether any of the following things happened to you personally or did not happen as a consequence of the armed conflict in Liberia. For each one, please indicate whether it happened or did not happen to you.

<i>Base: All <u>not</u> experiencing armed conflict at Q1 – 23**</i>	Happened	Did Not Happen	Don't know	Refused
	%	%	%	%
Forced to leave your home and live elsewhere	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Imprisoned	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kidnapped or taken as an hostage	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tortured	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Been humiliated	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lost contact with a close relative	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
A member of your immediate family was killed during the armed conflict	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Serious damage to your property	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wounded by the fighting	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Combatants took food away	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Had your home looted	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Somebody you knew well was a victim of sexual violence	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<u>ROTATE STATEMENTS BELOW HERE SEPARATELY AFTER OTHERS</u>				
No or very limited access to basic necessities (water, electricity, etc.)	4	96	0	0
No or very limited access to healthcare	4	96	0	0
Lost all my belongings	0	80	20	0
Lost my means of income (e.g. job, revenue, farm land, etc.)	0	100	0	0
The area where I lived came under enemy control	0	100	0	0

**Very low base

ASK ALL →**Q4. And have you been affected by armed conflict in Liberia in any other ways? What ways were those?**

SINGLE CODE

		%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes – specify	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	No	96
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	*
<input type="checkbox"/>	Refused	0

YES – SPECIFY: TOP MENTIONS (> 5% of respondents)	YES
<i>Base: All who have been affected by armed conflict in any other ways at Q4 – 20**</i>	%
TOTAL MENTIONS - PERSONAL SUFFERING	78
I couldn't continue my education	68
I was injured	10
TOTAL MENTIONS - DETERIORATION IN THE STANDARD OF LIVING	16
No job/ Couldn't work	11
TOTAL MENTIONS - FREEDOM RESTRICTION	6
Movement was restricted/ Couldn't freely move	6

Very low baseASK ALL WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED CONFLICT – YES AT Q1 AND YES AT Q2/CODE 1 (IN LIBERIA) OR ANY “HAPPENED” RESPONSE AT Q3, OR ANY YES RESPONSE AT Q4 →****Q5. And when were you personally most recently affected by this armed conflict in Liberia?**

SINGLE CODE

	<i>Base: All who have experienced / been affected by conflict in any way, as defined above – 478</i>	%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Now/currently experiencing	*
<input type="checkbox"/>	Within the last month	*
<input type="checkbox"/>	More than one month ago, but less than six months	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Six months ago to within the last year	*
<input type="checkbox"/>	1-2 years	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	3-4 years	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	5-9 years	51
<input type="checkbox"/>	10-19 years	47
<input type="checkbox"/>	20 years +	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	*
<input type="checkbox"/>	Refused	0

ASK ALL →**Q6. What do you think are the two or three greatest fears people are facing in a situation of armed conflict in Liberia?**

DO NOT READ OUT. INTERVIEWER TO CODE A MAXIMUM OF THREE RESPONSES

		%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inability to earn a living / personal - family economic instability	29
<input type="checkbox"/>	Losing a loved one	23
<input type="checkbox"/>	Being separated from loved ones	19
<input type="checkbox"/>	Losing/destruction of the house / losing of personal belongings	35
<input type="checkbox"/>	Living with uncertainty	25
<input type="checkbox"/>	Having to leave their home / becoming a displaced/refugee	37
<input type="checkbox"/>	Imprisonment	11
<input type="checkbox"/>	Surviving the conflict	16
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suffering injury	16
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual violence	22
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not being able to get an education / going to school	19
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fear of being rejected by your community	6
<input type="checkbox"/>	Having to take up arms/fight	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Being humiliated	14
<input type="checkbox"/>	Limited access to basic necessities (water, electricity, etc...)	8
<input type="checkbox"/>	Limited access to healthcare (drugs, hospital)	12
<input type="checkbox"/>	Outcome of the conflict	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify)	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nothing	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Refused	0

ASK ALL →**Q7. What do you think civilians who are living in areas of armed conflict need the most?****Please select the three most important to you**

ROTATE STATEMENTS. READ THE LIST AND ASK RESPONDENTS TO SELECT ONE ANSWER. REPEAT THE LIST IF NECESSARY. THEN READ THE LIST AGAIN WITHOUT MENTIONING THE FIRST ANSWER AND ASK THE RESPONDENT TO SELECT ANOTHER ANSWER. REPEAT AGAIN.

		%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Food	90
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shelter	58
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medical treatment / healthcare	69
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family members to be kept together	12
<input type="checkbox"/>	Information on separated / missing family members	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	Security / protection	36
<input type="checkbox"/>	Respect / dignity	6
<input type="checkbox"/>	Psychological support	8
<input type="checkbox"/>	To influence decisions that affect them	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	Conflict resolution	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	Economic / financial help	6
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify)	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Refused	0

ASK ALL WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED CONFLICT – YES AT Q1 AND YES AT Q2/CODE 1 (IN LIBERIA) OR ANY “HAPPENED” RESPONSE AT Q3, OR ANY YES RESPONSE AT Q4. ROTATE ORDER →

Q8. Now I would like to ask you about whether the armed conflict has changed the way you feel. For each description I read out, please say whether the armed conflict has made you feel more this way, less this way, or has it made no real difference. First [.....], would you say it has made you more [.....], less [.....], or has it done neither?

<i>Base: All who have experienced / been affected by conflict in any way, as defined above – 478</i>	More	Less	No Real Difference	Don't Know	Refused
	%	%	%	%	%
Vengeful	27	52	18	3	0
Trusting	51	42	7	*	0
Resilient	35	49	15	2	0
Anxious	32	48	19	2	0
Appreciative of every day	67	24	7	2	0
Confused	41	45	13	1	0
Sad	46	43	11	*	0
Sensitive	70	23	6	1	0
Disillusioned	28	49	20	2	*
Optimistic for the future	57	31	10	2	0
Wise	83	13	4	1	0
Empathetic towards other people	55	30	14	1	0
Violent/aggressive	19	56	25	*	*

BB) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE / NEEDS

ASK ALL WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED CONFLICT – YES AT Q1 AND YES AT Q2/CODE 1 (IN LIBERIA) OR ANY “HAPPENED” RESPONSE AT Q3, OR ANY YES RESPONSE AT Q4 →

Q9. During the time you experienced or were being affected by armed conflict, did you receive help or support from any of the following?

READ OUT

<i>Base: All who have experienced / been affected by conflict in any way, as defined above – 478</i>	Yes	No	Don't Know	Can't Remember
	%	%	%	%
UN / UN agency	75	25	*	0
Liberian Red Cross	49	49	1	*
ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross)	54	45	1	*
Other Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) or charity (local or international)	63	35	1	*
Government	17	82	1	*
Individuals from your community / neighbours	47	52	1	*
Religious entities	47	51	1	*
Military / army / combatants	15	83	1	*
Parents / family	76	23	1	0
Other (specify)	*	0	100	0
Combination: Liberian Red Cross / ICRC	67	62	*	*

ASK IF YES AT Q9 →

Q10. For each of the types of organisations or people you mentioned receiving help or support from, I would like you to tell me how well you felt they understood your needs. First, the [type of support at Q9]...do you feel your needs were completely understood, partially understood, or not understood at all?

SINGLE CODE FOR EACH SOURCE OF SUPPORT MENTIONED AT Q9

<i>Base: All who <u>did</u> receive support / help from each organisation at Q9</i>	Completely	Partially	Not At All	Don't Know	Refused
	%	%	%	%	%
UN / UN agency (Base = 353)	83	17	0	0	0
Liberian Red Cross (234)	72	28	0	0	0
ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) (248)	65	34	*	0	0
Other Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) or charity (local or international) (285)	47	53	*	0	0
Government (73*)	59	41	0	0	0
Individuals from your community / neighbours (217)	53	47	0	0	0
Religious entities (221)	57	43	1	0	0
Military/army/combatants (68*)	51	49	0	0	0
Parents / family (360)	87	13	0	0	0
Combination: Liberian Red Cross / ICRC (312)	72	41	*	0	0

*Low base

ASK ALL →

Q11. Which, if any, of the following reasons do you think may have prevented people in Liberia receiving or accepting help or support during armed conflict?

READ OUT LIST. ROTATE ORDER. MULTICODE OK

	YES
	%
Corruption	81
Black market	52
Discrimination/social status	51
Location - access – not able to reach the location	41
Unaware that it was available	26
Fear of being rejected by my community	19
Fear of being perceived to be aligned with wrong side	25
Pride/dignity	16
Didn't meet criteria	12
Did not want to receive any support	7
Did not need to receive any support	5
Did not want to accept support because of who was offering it	11
Other (specify)	0
Nothing	0
Don't know	0
Refused	0

The remaining results will be released in August.

DD) HUMANITARIAN GESTURES**ASK ALL →**

Q20. I'm now going to describe different kinds of groups and organizations. Please tell me which three of these play the biggest role to help reduce suffering during armed conflict?

READ OUT LIST AND ASK RESPONDENT TO SELECT ONE ANSWER. THEN READ LIST AGAIN AND ASK RESPONDENT FOR TWO MORE ANSWERS. REPEAT IF NECESSARY.

	First Mention	Other Mentions	TOTAL
	%	%	%
The military and combatants / armed groups	7	3	11
Religious leaders	12	20	32
International humanitarian organizations	11	35	46
Journalists and the news media	5	13	18
The United Nations	40	27	67
The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	12	27	39
Liberian Red Cross	3	20	23
Government authorities	2	8	10
Government organisations from other countries	1	20	22
International criminal court	3	9	12
Local / international NGOs / charities	3	11	14
Community leaders	*	4	4
Other (specify)	0	0	0
None of these	*	0	*
Don't know	*	1	1
Refused	0	0	0
Combination: Liberian Red Cross / ICRC	15	43	52

ASK ALL →

Q21. What do you think the international community should do to help civilians who are living in areas of armed conflict?

ROTATE STATEMENTS. READ THE LIST AND ASK RESPONDENT TO SELECT ONE ANSWER. THEN READ THE LIST AGAIN WITHOUT MENTIONING THE FIRST ANSWER AND ASK RESPONDENT TO SELECT ANOTHER ANSWER(S).

REPEAT IF NECESSARY. MULTICODE THREE.

	%
<input type="checkbox"/> Stop the armed conflict by military intervention	37
<input type="checkbox"/> Exert political pressure	27
<input type="checkbox"/> Deliver emergency aid	40
<input type="checkbox"/> Provide peacekeepers	65
<input type="checkbox"/> Provide financial support to humanitarian organizations	21
<input type="checkbox"/> Put leaders accused of committing war crimes on trial	29
<input type="checkbox"/> Place economic sanctions on the country	12
<input type="checkbox"/> Raise awareness of the plight of civilians who are caught in areas of armed conflict	9
<input type="checkbox"/> Rebuild infrastructure	22
<input type="checkbox"/> Organize peace talks / negotiations	27
<input type="checkbox"/> Better enforce the law that protects victims of armed conflicts	10
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	0
<input type="checkbox"/> Nothing	0
<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Refused	0

ASK ALL →

Q22. What, if anything, do you think people living outside of conflict zones can do that would most help victims of armed conflict in Liberia? Please select the three you feel are most important.

ROTATE STATEMENTS. READ THE LIST AND ASK RESPONDENT TO SELECT ONE ANSWER. THEN READ THE LIST AGAIN WITHOUT MENTIONING THE FIRST ANSWER AND ASK RESPONDENT TO SELECT ANOTHER ANSWER(S). REPEAT IF NECESSARY. MULTICODE THREE.

		%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Put pressure on legislators / politicians	48
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public lobbying	42
<input type="checkbox"/>	Become a volunteer	43
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donate money	61
<input type="checkbox"/>	Support an organization that helps those affected by the conflict	47
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mobilize their local community	22
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donate goods	32
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify)	*
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nothing	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Refused	0

The remaining results will be released in August.

Demographics

ASK ALL →**Respondent's Gender**

		%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Male	51
<input type="checkbox"/>	Female	49

ASK ALL →**Respondent's Age**

		%
<input type="checkbox"/>	18-24	29
<input type="checkbox"/>	25-29	22
<input type="checkbox"/>	30-34	16
<input type="checkbox"/>	35-39	11
<input type="checkbox"/>	40-44	9
<input type="checkbox"/>	45-49	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	50-64	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	65 or over	1

ASK ALL →**Cities**

		%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tubmanburg	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	GBARNGO	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	BUCHANAN	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	ROBERTSPORT	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	WWEDRU	6
<input type="checkbox"/>	BARCLEYVILLE	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	VOINJOMA	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	KAKATA	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	HARPER	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	MONROVIA	24
<input type="checkbox"/>	GREENVILLE	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	KOLELA	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	DAVIDSLEMA	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	PALELA	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	FAIRGROWN	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	LOYSVILLE	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	FOYAH	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	6
<input type="checkbox"/>	GANTA	13
<input type="checkbox"/>	BUXHROD ISLAND	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	CESSTOS CITY	2

ASK ALL →**Province**

		%
<input type="checkbox"/>	BOMI	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	BONG	9
<input type="checkbox"/>	GRAND BASSA	6
<input type="checkbox"/>	GRAND CAPE MONT	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	GRAND GEDEH	6
<input type="checkbox"/>	GRAND KRU	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	LOFA	10
<input type="checkbox"/>	MARGIBI	6
<input type="checkbox"/>	MARYLAND	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	MONTSERRADO	33
<input type="checkbox"/>	NIMBA	13
<input type="checkbox"/>	RIVERCESS	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	SINOE	3

ASK ALL →**Area**

		%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban	83
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rural	17

ASK ALL →
Religion

		%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Christian	80
<input type="checkbox"/>	Muslim	17
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	3

- END OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE -

MISSION

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance.

The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.

ABOUT IPSOS

Ipsos is a leading international research agency, with offices in over 60 countries worldwide and global reach.

Established in 1975, it conducts qualitative and quantitative research with the private, public and voluntary sectors. One of its key areas of specialization is in social and opinion research. This includes extensive work with a wide range of national and international NGOs, charities and aid organizations.

This study was coordinated by Ipsos Switzerland, with fieldwork in Liberia conducted by RMS (Research Marketing Services) and Ipsos Markinor, both working across Africa.

