



TV

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REINTEGRATION OF FORMER CHILD SOLDIERS IN SIERRA LEONE

VIDEO

ADMIRE AT WEAVING CLASS

KAMARA ON-CAMERA

SCENES OF CIVIL
WAR/CHILDREN
FIGHTING/STREET SCENES

WEAVING CLASS/ADMIRE

AUDIO

NARRATION

Admire Kamara fought with the rebels in Sierra Leone in West Africa when she was only 11 years old. (6.5)

KAMARA: (In English)

"I went to the bush with them for eight years. I was trained to know how to fight, how to use an RPG and an AK-47. I was also taken to other villages to fight." (11)

NARRATION

Admire is one of 7,000 displaced children who were forced to fight on the side of the rebels in a long and bitter civil war in Sierra Leone. After a peace agreement was reached in 1999, Admire and other children were released. (15)

But returning to a normal environment is difficult. UNICEF, the United Nations Fund for Children, has partnered with a non-governmental organization, CARITAS, to reach out to ex-child soldiers to help them reintegrate

NARRATION

back into society. The children are responding well says Child Protection Officer, Donald Shaw, of UNICEF. (22)

SHAW:

SHAW ON-CAMERA

"...the children were tired of fighting. This artificial structure of being a combatant, of being in charge of a certain platoon or section was an artificial construction that was based on coercion and extreme violence. So the children welcomed that the war was over." (17)

NARRATION

NURSERY/WOMEN
WEAVING/SEWING

Most of these young women bore children for the rebel commanders who treated them as sex slaves during the war. Having lost relatives during the fighting, they have no choice but to bring their toddlers to a nearby nursery school provided by Caritas while they learn new income-generating vocations. (19)

SCHOOL SEQUENCE/MUSA AND
BOYS GOING TO SCHOOL

The constant chatter of school children reciting lessons fills the air instead of the penetrating noise made by guns (7)

CLASSES

(NAT SOUND OF TEACHER/STUDENTS)

... Caritas is active in bringing primary education to all children in Makeni, a small town 115 miles from Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone. (9)

MUSA IN CLASS

Musa, now 16 years old, was taken by force to fight alongside the rebels in 1996. He spent

NARRATION

three years fighting in the bush. (10)

MUSA ON-CAMERA

MUSA: (In English)

“At the time, I was in the village; the rebels came to destroy and burn the village. They tried to catch me. They brought me to the town and gave me drugs and other things. That is how I joined.” (17)

STREET SCENE/CHILDREN

NARRATION

UNICEF’s challenge is to provide basic services to some 10,000 to 30,000 children. Providing them with an education and giving them new responsibilities are some ways to restore their confidence. Foday Kamara is thinking about his future. (17)

FODAY ON-CAMERA

FODAY:

“After primary school I want to continue up to college level. After college, I want to study law, and be a lawyer.” (6)

STREET SCENES, CHILDREN
SINGING AND CLAPPING

NARRATION

Reintegrating children who were directly associated with fighting factions back into mainstream society will take years. Giving up the gun for text books and vocational training is a sign that children can switch to a normal life with adequate support systems and nurturing. (19)

LOGO

This report was prepared by United Nations Television. (3)

