



Peacebuilding Fund
FINAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE REPORT

Programme Title & Number
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Programme Title: Support to Guinea-Bissau's Electoral Cycle – Phase I (2008)• Programme Number: PBF/GNB/A-1• MDTF Office Atlas Number:

Country, Locality(s), Thematic Area(s)²
Guinea-Bissau, across national territory

Participating Organization(s)
UNDP

Implementing Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secretariat of State for Territorial Administration/Office of Technical Support to the Electoral Process (GTAPE)• National Electoral Commission (CNE)

Programme/Project Cost (US\$)
MDTF Fund Contribution: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• US\$ 1,381,889
Agency Contribution <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i>
Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i>
Other Contribution (donor) <i>(if applicable)</i>
TOTAL:

Programme Duration (months)
Overall Duration: 4 months
Start Date ³ : 31 December 2008
Original end date: 30 January 2009
Revised End Date, <i>(if applicable)</i>
Operational Closure Date ⁴
Expected Financial Closure Date

Final Programme/ Project Evaluation
Evaluation Completed <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: _____
Evaluation Report - Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Submitted By
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¹ The term "programme" is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² Priority Area for the Peacebuilding Fund; Sector for the UNDG ITF.

³ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MDTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MDTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org) (<http://mdtf.undp.org>).

⁴ All activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MDTF programme have been completed. Agencies to advise the MDTF Office.

FINAL PROGRAMME REPORT

I. PURPOSE

a. Provide a brief introduction to the programme/ project (*one paragraph*).

The project's main objective was to contribute primarily for the organization of the 2008 legislative elections, and to the establishment of solid ground for free, transparent and equitable Presidential elections in 2010, managed efficiently and cost-effectively and leading to broad national and international recognition of the legitimacy of the results.

The project's overall goal was to consolidate and deepen democracy through free and fair elections by implementing necessary efforts to ensure that the people of Guinea Bissau have full opportunity to participate in the decisions that affect their lives. Transparent and peaceful 2008 legislative elections in Guinea-Bissau will set the pace for a well organized and probably more efficient 2010 presidential elections in a context of fragile democratic gains. On the contrary, a poorly organized electoral process in 2008 will most probably result in bitter electoral disputes and very unstable political environment in 2010.

The 2008 elections are perceived by the people as essential to legitimate the political actors and bodies that will govern (the national assembly and, therefore, its executive branch – the government) after a kind of constitutional vacuum due to uncertainties surrounding the end of the latest legislative mandate. The possibility of rescheduling legislative elections later than 2008 would certainly result in major social and political unrest.

The voters' register operations were a critical factor to achieve or not these goals, since they represent the first and most important phase of any elections, without which no elections can take place. Supporting the creation of a reliable electoral roll and voter's information campaign may contribute in a critical way to trigger a positive dynamic for the overall electoral process and increase the scope of political participation to the poorest and unprivileged.

The project's peacebuilding objective was to contribute to the establishment of *a credible voters' database and, therefore, to the efficient organization of the 2008 legislative elections within the current context of the democratization process in which the elected officials and the Government need legitimacy*. To monitor this objective, the project identified as indicators:

- ✚ Voters' Database is available;
- ✚ Voters' register operations and information campaigns are implemented.

b. Provide a list of the main outputs and outcomes of the programme as per the approved programmatic document.

Outputs:

1. Voter registration exercise is successfully conducted and completed; and
2. Voter civic education campaigns are concurrently organized and successfully implemented.

Immediate Objective:

Nationwide conduct of voter registration, backed by voter civic education campaigns, to compile a reliable database of eligible voters to be used immediately for the legislative elections scheduled for 16 November 2008.

- c. Explain how the Programme relates to the Strategic (UN) Planning Framework guiding the operations of the Fund.

The conduct of free, credible and transparent legislative elections in 2008 is crucial for Guinea-Bissau politics and development challenges, particularly as this democratic exercise will determine the composition of the new Government which will guide the country forward to the 2010 presidential elections. At stake is the country's socio-economic development, since sustainable economic development can only derive from good governance and multiparty elections contributes greatly for good governance.

The PBF project approach was to finance the implementation of urgent and imperative short-term activities to ensure well organized and peaceful elections in 2008. Two core activities was financed allowing national EMBs to establish a list of registered voters (not updated since 2005 presidential elections) and to carried out civic education initiatives to increase participation among the poorest and unprivileged. This was done while ensuring middle-term technical assistance to the core EMB and in close collaboration with all other stakeholders to ensure durable capacity development.

- d. List primary implementing partners and stakeholders including key beneficiaries.

- GTAPE
- INEC
- Some civic society organizations implemented an emergency voters' information campaign

II. ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAMME/ PROJECT RESULTS

- a. Report on the key outputs achieved and explain any variance in achieved versus planned results.

Both of the project's outputs were fully achieved and their indicators are available. The activities scheduled were implemented with success. The first output, voter registration exercise was successfully conducted and completed within time:

ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS	VOTERS REGISTERED	POOLING STATIONS
BISSAU	148 544	530
OIO	83 896	449
GABU	81 933	391
BAFATA	78 579	396
CACHEU	74 983	335
BIOMBO	39 345	195
TOMBALI	35 674	188
QUINARA	22 285	131
BOLAMA/BIJ	13 735	88
TOTAL NATIONAL	578 974	2 703

in Rapport Elections Législatives 2008 – Documentation informative sur la structure électorale – Dossier n.1 04/10/08

In fact, the increase of 25% of pooling stations, 542 more than in 2005 presidential elections, mainly in rural areas (8,5% against only 3,6% in Bissau), enhance participation within the poorest and unprivileged.

The second output, voter civic education campaigns were organized and successfully implemented. With UNDP technical support, it was possible to plan and implement a successful voters' information campaign. Thanks to this effort, the participation rate increase from around 20% in the first phase of the voters' register operation to around 95% of the potential voters. This campaign was conceived to target political parties, government and civil society groups in a proximity informative campaign.

- b. Explain the contribution of key partnerships and collaborations, and explain how such relationships impact on the achievement of results.

The project activities were in fact the quality factor for the 2008 legislative elections voters' register. Initial inefficiencies resulting from GTAPE's structural weaknesses and clear incapacity to carryout the voters' register operations were deepened by a very poor institutional information campaign. In reaction, the government charged INEC to carryout these operations. For this purpose, INEC signed an Agreement letter with UNDP to implement the project activities.

With UNDP technical and operational support, INEC was able to implement the project activities: voters' register operations were efficiently carried out and an emergency voters' information campaign contributed to that end. This campaign was implemented through some civic society organizations.

III. EVALUATION & LESSONS LEARNED

The project's implementing arrangements adopted allowed UNDP to mitigate risks of low participation, of institutional instability and a time-constrained electoral calendar.

Using UNDP rules and procedures to finance activities implemented by INEC was in fact an excellent measure to mitigate those risks.