



RURAL COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FINAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE REPORT

Programme Title & Number

- Programme Title: Rural Community Empowerment
- Programme Number: Programme 18, Rural Community Empowerment
- MDTF Office Atlas Number: 00075969

Country, Locality(s), Thematic Area(s)²

Sierra Leone, Nationwide

Community Recovery and Preventive Development

Participating Organization(s)

- UNDP

Implementing Partners

- Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
- Ministry of Energy and Water Resources
- Ministry of Internal Affairs

Programme/Project Cost (US\$)

MDTF Fund Contribution:

- DaO: 396,000 USD

Agency Contribution

- Nil

Government Contribution

Nil

Other Contribution (donor)

MultiChoice DStv International: In kind (Social Corporate Responsibility - Community Social Initiatives Programme)

TOTAL: USD 396,000

Programme Duration (months)

Overall Duration: 14 months

Start Date³

28 June 2010

Original End Date

31 December 2010

Revised End Date

31 March 2011

Operational Closure

Date⁴

September 2011

Expected Financial Closure Date

Final Programme/ Project Evaluation

Evaluation Completed

Yes No Date: _____

Evaluation Report -

Yes No

Submitted By

- Name: Mohamed Abchir
- Title: Deputy Country Director, Programmes
- Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP
- Contact information:
mohamed.abchir@undp.org

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

The Rural Community Empowerment Programme aimed to increase and enhance access to information and connectivity in rural communities. The Programme also sought to increase the lines of communication and information to rural communities through the introduction of global education programmes in Senior Secondary schools via satellite TV through support from a public-private partnership. Under the overall priority of furthering the consolidation of peace in Sierra Leone, Joint Vision Programme 18 contributed to the UN Joint Vision's broader effort to support the economic integration of rural areas and ensure the participation of rural communities in sustainable economic development.

The project was executed by UNDP who was responsible for procurement and financial management and oversight. UNDP focused on strategy and the financing of the services, while the other UN agencies in particular, UNIDO involved supported the design and specifications of the SPVs with UNDP/PSO Copenhagen. UNDP was responsible for the overall implementation and monitoring of the initiative.

The Programme responded to a decline in education standards in Senior Secondary schools as reflected in West African Schools Certificate Examination (WASCE) results in recent years. The key reason for the decline is a lack of trained and qualified teachers due to high labour mobility rates and teaching and training materials in most schools. The Programme therefore aimed to contribute to the achievement of Sierra Leone's Education Development Plan (2007-2015) outcomes. This Plan aims to improve the quality of Senior Secondary education nationwide through a number of interventions, one of which focuses on improving the quality of the teaching and learning environment. To achieve this objective, the Plan includes the following outputs:

- More schools using teacher aides and teacher guides.
- More schools engaging in partnerships with companies that provide internet facilities.
- Each school provided with a TV and VCR/DVD player for viewing 'master teacher' sample lessons.
- Each school provided with solar power.

II. ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAMME/ PROJECT RESULTS

The following outputs were achieved under the Programme with support from the MDTF Delivering as One (DaO):

- Procurement, delivery and installation of solar panels and accessories (inverters, batteries, charge controllers, cables, etc.) in thirty (30) Senior Secondary schools;
- Procurement, delivery and installation of 32 inch HD Plasma TVs in thirty (30) Senior Secondary schools;
- Procurement, delivery and installation of DVD recorders/players in thirty (30) Senior Secondary schools;
- Training of sixty (60) teachers on the maintenance of the solar panels and accessories;
- Provision and installation of decoders, satellite dishes and cables in thirty (30) Senior Secondary schools;
- Procurement and delivery of blank DVD RWs to thirty (30) Senior Secondary schools.

The Programme worked through a public-private partnership between UNDP Sierra Leone and

MultiChoice International (SL) Limited to provide the targeted schools with educational TV programming at no cost as part of the company's Community Social Initiatives Programme. MultiChoice supported the following outputs:

- Provision of the DStv channels (in perpetuity) to schools;
- Provision of the decoder fee (Free On Board);
- Provision of the satellite dish, cables and decoders (Personal Video Recorders);
- Training of sixty (60) teachers on the Direct Satellite Learning Process and use of equipment;
- Installation of the DStv equipment.

To kick off the Programme, UNDP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) and the Ministry of Works, Housing and Infrastructure (MHWI), identified and inspected thirty (30) Senior Secondary schools that were to benefit from the activities, across all the districts in Sierra Leone including the Western Rural and Urban areas. MEST approved the satellite TV channels from an educational point of view and the thirty (30) beneficiary Senior Secondary schools were ultimately selected by MEST who was responsible for arranging for the schools to take full responsibility of the care and maintenance of the systems. The solar powered systems were designed by technicians from the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources and verified by a Technical Expert from the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). The systems are powered by solar generated electricity and as a result, have no operating costs associated with them. The only envisaged cost will be the replacement of a new set of batteries once every three years.

UNDP procured, through competitive tendering, the following for the targeted schools:

- Thirty (30) 32 inch HD plasma TVs;
- Thirty (30) DVD recorders/players;
- One hundred and fifty (150) solar panels and accessories including inverters, batteries, cables and charge controllers and installation fees.
- Training of sixty (60) teachers on the maintenance of the solar panels and accessories.
- The installation fee for the satellite dish, cables and decoder.

Due to the limited local knowledge and availability of renewable solar power energy systems in Sierra Leone, the contracts for the procurement of one hundred and fifty (150) bulk Solar Panel Voltaic Cell (SPVC) modules and the training of sixty (60) teaching staff and installation processes was tendered in September 2010 to UNDP's global Procurement Support Office (PSO) in Copenhagen. The solar equipment arrived in Sierra Leone in July 2011. The other equipment including the 32 inch HD plasma TVs and DVD recorders/players required for the set up of the system was procured during 2010 and installed in early 2011. The installation of the MultiChoice International DStv was carried out over November and December 2011. The Training of Trainers for fifty-nine (59) teachers on the Direct Satellite Learning Process and use of the DStv equipment is the responsibility of MultiChoice Transnational (SL) Limited and will be carried out in 2012 following the training of the Master Trainer in Nigeria in September 2011.

Programme monitoring and reporting was carried out as per the UN Joint Vision joint Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system. Effective monitoring for the successful implementation of the Programme was the collaborative effort of UNDP, MEST and MultiChoice International (SL) Limited as each entity monitored its own output components. Efficient coordination mechanisms were established engaging stakeholders at all levels including bi-weekly monitoring of the installation and operation of the solar powered systems. In relation to the planned outputs, the following results were achieved over the Programme period:

Activity 1. The procurement of 32 inch HD Plasma TVs and DVD recorders/players

UNDP Sierra Leone's Project Implementation Support Unit (PISU) awarded the procurement and

supply of the thirty (30) DVD recorders/players and thirty (30) 32 inch HD plasma TVs for the targeted schools countrywide in 2010. A delay was experienced with the arrival of the TVs and DVD recorders/players, which only reached Sierra Leone in December 2010. However, this delay did not adversely affect Programme implementation since discussions with UNDP's global PSO were still ongoing with regards to the design and specifications for the Invitation to Bid exercise for the solar equipment procurement. The majority of the items were in-country and installed by July 2011 except the MultiChoice decoders and satellite dish equipment.

Activity 2. Supply, training and installation of bulk SPVC modules and accessories

The contracts for the supply and installation of the SPVC modules and accessories as well as the training for sixty (60) staff of the targeted Senior Secondary schools countrywide on maintenance of the SPVCs were tendered by PSO Copenhagen in May 2011 to Phaesun Germany, who later contracted a counterpart in Sierra Leone, RCD Solar Company.

Activity 3. Procurement of additional equipment (blank DVD RWs)

Additional blank DVD RWs were procured in 2011.

Activity 4. Monitoring of the Programme

Monitoring of the installation of the solar powered systems and the DStv equipment was carried out in all the targeted Senior Secondary schools nationwide by a team comprised of UNDP, MHWI and MEST personnel in February 2012 and March 2012 with the view to ascertain the performance of the education programme via satellite.

III. EVALUATION & LESSONS LEARNED

The main lesson learned from the Rural Community Empowerment Programme was related to the lack of technical expertise in the area of renewable energy and solar power in the CO. This lack led to delays in implementation as clarifications on the specifications submitted by UNDP Sierra Leone to the PSO and intended bidders for the procurement of the solar equipment were heavily needed. In the future adequate expertise, will be brought on board to ensure that such delays can be avoided. An impact evaluation has not yet been conducted with regards to possible replication to other Senior Secondary schools in Sierra Leone.

IV. INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baselines	Planned Indicator Targets	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance (if any)	Source of Verification	Comments (if any)
Outcome 1. Ensure that there is improvement in the quality of the teaching and learning environment in Senior Secondary schools.							
Output 1.1 Schools with more aides and teacher guides that are in use.	Indicator 1.1.1	Improved learning aide in (30) Senior Secondary schools	20% of 144 Senior Secondary schools in Sierra Leone	100%	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring reports - Procurement receipts - Interviews with selected beneficiary Senior Secondary school pupils and teachers. 	
Output 1.2 Partnerships with companies providing internet facilities.	Indicator 1.2.1	Endorsed Letter of Agreement with MultiChoice International, RAZPEC, Phaesun Germany, FABIZ	Public-Private partnership forged with international and national service providers.	100%	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNDP progress reports - Letter of Agreement 	
Output 1.3 Targeted Schools provided with improved connectivity gadgets	Indicator 1.3.1	Improved learning aide in selected (30) Senior Secondary schools	20% of 144 Senior Secondary schools in Sierra Leone	100%	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signed delivery notes by recipient Senior Secondary schools. - Training and installation 	

(internet and satellite TV) in rural communities						activities.	
Output 1.4 Schools provided solar generated electricity with low operating costs	Indicator 1.4.1	Uninterrupted power supply in target Senior Secondary schools.	20% of 144 Senior Secondary schools in Sierra Leone	100%	N/A	- List of selected Senior Secondary schools submitted by MEST	