



PEACEBUILDING FUND
[COUNTRY]

PROJECT HALF YEARLY PROGRESS UPDATE

AS OF JANUARY – JUNE 2013

Project No & Title:	PBF/IRF/57 Women's Participation - Peace Consolidation through Increased Participation of Women in Decision Making in Sierra Leone		
Recipient Organization(s)¹:	UN Women , UNDP and UNFPA		
Implementing Partners (Government, UN agencies, NGOs etc)	Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs Legal Access through Women Yearning for Equability Rights and Social Justice (LAWYERS)		
Location:	Sierra Leone		
Total Approved Budget²			
Funds Committed³		% of funds committed / total approved budget:	
Expenditure⁴:		% of expenditure / total budget: (Delivery rate)	
Project Approval Date:	6th August 2012	Possible delay in operational closure date (Number of months)	
Project Start Date:	4th April 2013		
Expected Operational Project Closure Date:			
PBF Outcome Area⁵	PBF Priority Area 2: Promotion of co-existence and peaceful resolution of conflict		
Qualitative assessment of achievements and challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provide a qualitative assessment of the level of progress towards overall achievements of the Project at both the outcome and output level</i> <p>UN Women in collaboration with the MSWGCA has made some progress using the PBF funds and supported XX female parliamentarians and their supportive male counterpart in a three days training workshop to enhance their professional</p>		

¹ Please note that where there are multiple agencies, only one consolidated project report should be submitted.

² Approved budget should be the amount transferred to Recipient Organisations

³ Funds committed are defined as the commitments made through legal contracts for services and works according to the financial regulations and procedures of the Recipient Organisations.

⁴ Actual payments (contracts, services, works) made on commitments.

⁵ Reference to be made to outcomes of the Priority Plan or PBF Performance Management Plan (PMP)

knowledge and to improve their skills as legislators . The programme was facilitated by an international consultant who delivered eight modules including constitutional and legal framework and gender equality in Sierra Leone, Women peace building politics and the political landscape in Sierra Leone, the roles and functions of the legislatures and introduction to Gender Equality Concepts, Women in Parliament. Practical sessions were held on designing a gender friendly pro-poor policy as well as Parliamentary building cross-party alliance .

In collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs UN Women held training for 2 Mayors, 6 Chairpersons and 80 female councilors and 20 male councilors to develop their leadership skills and to teach them in lobbying skills for policy development. For the first time after they had been elected female councilors the training is to enhanced their increased understanding of their roles and responsibilities as key players in the local council and their role in national development.

During the period of review UNFPA increased knowledge of women and girls access to legal aid in collaboration with LAWYERS a female based organization, supporting 15 paralegals to do outreach sensitization to 2 schools and 2 deprived communities in the western Area of Freetown on the 3 Gender Justice laws and the Sexual Offences Act

UNFPA also increased access to justice for vulnerable women and girls through free legal clinics which were supported in 3 regions to provide legal aid to S/ GBV victims/survivors

Progress for the UNDP components has been hampered by the delayed signing of the Annual Work Plan (AWP) with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA) (signed in May 2013). Reason for the delay was the appointment of a new Minister after the November 2012 elections, as well as the request from the Minister to alter some of the specified activities under the Programme Document in order to meet the changing priorities of the Ministry. In this regard UNDP was requested to amend 2 activities relating to increased access to justice for women; the preparation of a handbook on best practices on the application of Resolution 1325 and 1820, and the establishment of 3 provincial SGBV information desks within the Magistrate Courts. The Ministry informed UNDP that an Action Plan for implementation of Resolution 1325 and 1820 was already being implemented and such a handbook was not needed. In addition the Ministry informed UNDP that SGBV information desks were already in existence and did not need further support. The Ministry instead requested support for the drafting of a Gender Policy for the Ministry, as well as support to the Ministry to raise awareness on SGBV and the Gender Laws. Pursuant to this request the AWP was signed with the Ministry on 17th May 2013. In addition UNDP in collaboration with the Ministry selected a CSO, AMNET, to implement the activity relating to the 30 % quota bill and awareness raising on SGBV and signed a Micro-Capital Grant Agreement with them on the 24 June 2013 with 60% disbursement of the total grant already effected. Meanwhile, UNDP is awaiting the Ministry to develop a draft TOR for preparation of a Gender Policy.

- *Use the project indicators and target for the measuring of achievements (see target table at the end)*

As outlined not all activities have got underway in mid 2013 and therefore results

for some of the indicators are yet to be seen. For those that have started see table below.

- *What are the major - expected and/or unexpected – highlights of results?*

UN Women in the two day retreat organized for female parliamentarians focused on promoting women's participation in politics and leadership roles to enable them engage in decision-making processes that are inclusive, responsive and equitable by engaging with multiple stakeholders that support women's entry into governance as per UNSCR 1325.

After the training seminar of the female local councilors it is expected that they now have a better understanding of national policy and women's empowerment thus making them better equipped to champion gender equity and women's empowerment issues within their local councils and communities.

- *Did the results impact the causes and drivers of conflict?*

Male involvement on gender issues is critical and as Sierra Leone is a patriarchal society where women have limited roles in decision making it was a major impact to have male parliamentarians participate in the retreat.. The male parliamentarians who attended the retreat have gradually changed their attitude to a gender friendly stance especially when engaged in gender equality and women's rights issues.

By holding the various training with the female Parliamentarians and female Councilors , the expected impact is that the women have now been equipped with skills and tools that will help them make a greater impact in politics and in their communities. As a result, this has demystifying stereotypes within the community that women are not supposed to participate in decision making in the nation and the communities.

As a result of late implementation it is early to determine the impact of the other project components.

- *Were there catalytic effects – additional funding commitments or unleashing peace relevant processes?*

UN Women's engagement with the female Parliamentary Caucus has brought forth the formation of a male caucus in Parliament. This group will be responsible for championing the gender equality bill in Parliament . The bill calls for a 30% quota for women in decision making at all levels. UN Women is currently engaging with the male caucus to actively participate in the constitutional review process to ensure it is gender responsive.

- *What are the risks / challenges – and how to address them?*

Because of the delay in beginning implementation there is a risk that implementation will not be complete by the end of 2013. Un Women, UNDP and UNFPA will provide ongoing support to the Ministry as well as other Non-Governmental Organizations to ensure that all deliverables are met on time.

UNFPA envisages challenges for additional funding to ensure a comprehensive response mechanism.

- *What can be expected as additional results by the end of year?*

As indicated some results can expect to be different due to the changes in project alignment as requested by the Ministry. In particular it can be expected that the Ministry's strategic focus on gender improves with the drafting of a Gender Policy. In addition it can be expected that the Ministry's input on awareness raising activities relating to SGBV has an impact on SGBV prevention overall in the country.

Another expected result by the end of the year is strengthened referral service delivery for enhanced protection of S/GBV victims/ Survivors.

- *Is there any need to adjust project strategies?*

See above.

INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT: *Using the Programme Results Framework from the Project Document - provide an update on the achievement of indicators at both the outcome and output level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why, as well as plans on how and when this data will be collected.*

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baselines	Planned Indicator Targets	Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance (if any)	Risks
Outcome 1⁶ 1.0 Increased participation and representation of women in decision making processes on issues of peace and security.	Indicator No. and % of women actively engaged in decision making process, disaggregated by level-cabinet, (parliament and local councils (16 out of 124 parliamentarians are female	By 2013 at least 15% increase representation and participation of women in decision making organs	15 out of 124 parliamentarians are female	Political delay resulted in that the 30 % quota bill could not be enacted before the election in November 2012 as a result number of women in Parliament and at local councils still remains low. . With the same aim of enhancing women’s political participation the project was amended to build the capacity of female parliamentarians and councilors.	Weak political will especially within the Parliament to move the gender equality agenda forward may retard the progress of project implementation The continued existence of Section 27 (4) (d&e) , the claw back gender equality in the Constitution is a barriers to women’s empowerment. UN Women is working with a legal Consultant to identify all gender discriminatory

⁶ Either country relevant (from the Priority Plan or Project Document) or PMP specific.

	<p>1.1.2 No. of women in decision making positions at national and community levels</p> <p>1.1.3 No. of women participating in decision making at district and national levels</p>			<p>have been trained on their roles and</p> <p>The Ministry has requested support from UNDP renewed engagements for vthe passing of the30% quota gender bill</p>		<p>enacted before the election in November 2012</p> <p>This component will be reported on by the next reporting session.</p>
<p>Output 1.2 Gender responsive behavior for prevention of violence against women and children</p>	<p>Indicator 1.2</p> <p>1.2.1 No. of reported cases of violence against women during elections (as we as number of percent of cases</p>	N/A	N/A	<p>107 reported cases of gender-based violence and 62 are represented in court with 45 cases mediated</p> <p>2 senior secondary schools with 45% of boys and 55% of girls and 2 hard to reach</p>		

	<p>prosecuted under fair trial.</p> <p>1.2.2 No of community leaders with increased knowledge on the three gender laws that will prosecute all GBV cases</p>			<p>communities sensitized on the gender Justice laws and the sexual offences act .</p> <p>400 men, women and children in the Kono District received legal counseling of which 50% were women 35% were men and 15% were children for the referral of GBV/SGBV cases to the appropriate units for better justice to prevail</p>		
<p>Output 1.3</p> <p>Increased access to justice for women and peace consolidation strengthened</p>	<p>Indicator 1.3</p> <p>1.3.1 No. and % of reported SGBV cases</p> <p>1.3.2 No and % of SGBV cases brought to</p>	N/A	N/A	<p>AWP signed with MSWGCA on 17/05/2013</p>	<p>The Ministry informed UNDP that an Action Plan for implementation of Resolution 1325 and 1820 was already being implemented and such a handbook was not needed. In addition the Ministry informed UNDP that SGBV information desks were already in existence and did not need further support. The Ministry instead requested support for the drafting of a Gender Policy for the Ministry,</p>	<p>Delay in beginning implementation may impact on ability of Ministry to implement by end of 2013. UNDP will advise closely to ensure implementation is timely.</p>

Court

1.3.3
No. and % of
cases brought
to court

as well as support to the Ministry
to raise awareness on SGBV and
the to pass the 30% gender bill.