



LIBERIA

**PROJECT HALF YEARLY PROGRESS UPDATE**

**PERIOD COVERED: JANUARY – JUNE 2014**

<b>Project No &amp; Title:</b>	PBF/LBR/D-13: National Youth Service Programme for Peace and Development (NYSP) Project ID: 00088063		
<b>Recipient Organization(s)<sup>1</sup>:</b>	UNICEF		
<b>Implementing Partners (Government, UN agencies, NGOs etc):</b>	Ministry of Youth and Sports, USAID's Food and Enterprise Development (FED), Peace Corps		
<b>Location:</b>	Liberia: Bomi, Bong, Gbarpolu, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, Lofa, Margibi, Maryland, Montserrado, Nimba and Sinoe counties		
<b>Total Approved Budget :<sup>2</sup></b>	US\$ 1,500,000		
<b>Preliminary data on funds committed :<sup>3</sup></b>	US\$ 1,482,369	<b>% of funds committed / total approved budget:</b>	98%
<b>Expenditure<sup>4</sup>:</b>	US\$ 763,686	<b>% of expenditure / total budget: (Delivery rate)</b>	52%
<b>Project Approval Date:</b>	September 2013	<b>Possible delay in operational closure date (Number of months)</b>	
<b>Project Start Date:</b>	1 October 2013		
<b>Expected Operational Project Closure Date:</b>	30 November 2015		
<b>Project Outcomes:</b>	Enhanced social cohesion through the empowerment of youth, and enhanced sustainable livelihoods of youth in conflict-prone areas.		
<b>PBF Focus Area<sup>5</sup></b>	3.1: Short-term employment generation		

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

<sup>2</sup> Approved budget is the amount transferred to Recipient Organisations.

<sup>3</sup> 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. Provide preliminary data only.

<sup>4</sup> Actual payments (contracts, services, works) made on commitments.

<sup>5</sup> PBF focus areas are:

*1: Support the implementation of peace agreements and political dialogue (Priority Area 1):*

(1.1) SSR; (1.2) RoL; (1.3) DDR; (1.4) Political Dialogue;

*2: Promote coexistence and peaceful resolution of conflicts (Priority Area 2):*

(2.1) National reconciliation; (2.1) Democratic Governance; (2.3) Management of natural resources;

*3: Revitalise the economy and generate immediate peace dividends (Priority Area 3);*

(3.1) Short-term employment generation; (3.2) Sustainable livelihoods

*4) (Re)-establish essential administrative services (Priority Area 4)*

(4.1) Public administration; (4.2) Public service delivery (including infrastructure).

**Qualitative assessment of progress**

<p><i>For each intended outcome, provide evidence of progress during the reporting period.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, for each outcome include the outputs achieved. (500 words max.)</i></p>	<p><b>Outcome 1:</b> The project outcome of the NYSP is to ‘reduce youth potential for violence’ and promote national reconciliation, by enabling youth to become key actors in peacebuilding, institutional strengthening, public service delivery, private sector development and social cohesion.</p> <p>Hence, the programme aims to enhance access to quality education, youth development and livelihood opportunities through the provision of services by National Volunteers (NVs) in 12 counties<sup>6</sup>. Activities include competitive and transparent recruitment, training and deployment of NVs to selected schools, youth centers, agricultural projects, hospitals and health clinics.</p> <p>Under Outcome 1, for the period January-June 2014 a total of 175 NVs have been deployed in 12 counties.</p> <p><b>Output 1.1:</b> The NYSP provided to 185 young university, college and technical school graduate volunteers the opportunity to serve in communities as teacher assistants, health care assistants, youth center managers, or to work in the agriculture field (123 male, 62 female).</p> <p><b>Output 1.2:</b> For the period reported under Output 1.2 an average of 57% of the NVs trained succeeded in scoring at least 70% at their training test.</p> <p><b>Output 2.1:</b> For January-June 2014 a total of 76 public and private institutions have been selected to benefit from the services of the NVs (52 schools, 8 hospitals, 6 health clinics, 10 youth centers, and 17 agriculture projects).</p>
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<sup>6</sup> Bong, Bomi, Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, Grand Bassa, Grand Gedeh, Lofa, Margibi, Maryland, Montserrado, Nimba, Sinoe.

	<p>Output 3.1: Under the 5th batch, 1,500 'at risk' youth benefitted from the support of NVs in the agriculture sector.</p> <p>Output 4.1: A total of 91 communities have increased their awareness about how to engage in peaceful conflict resolution and dialogue as peacebuilding campaigns have been conducted by NVs.</p>
<p><i>Do you see evidence that the project is having a positive impact on peacebuilding?</i> (250 words max.)</p>	<p>In Senneh-Weh, Grand Gedeh county, National Volunteers conducted to sensitize youth on conflict resolution. As a result, youth in the community are serving as peace ambassadors, helping their peers in maintaining peace. In some communities were National Volunteers established peace clubs, family and financial disputes are resolved without going through the court system.</p>
<p>Were there catalytic effects from the project in the period reported, including additional funding commitments or unleashing/unblocking of any peace relevant processes? (250 words max.)</p>	<p>Under the first tranche funding the NYSP had key catalytic effects in terms of financial leverage, with the Government of Australia (GoA) contributing US\$ 800,000 to the programme – primarily to support the equipping and operationalizing of the nation's 10 youth centers that will become hubs for youth development. Further funding came from the Government of the Netherlands (GoN), which provided funds to upscale the NYSP to two additional counties, provided bridge funding for a programme extension until the end of the 2013 school year, and cover Induction Training. WFP also supported the agricultural sector. In 2013 the programme also started new partnerships with the Peace Corps and USAID's Food and Enterprise Development (FED). The two organizations are providing additional technical and funding support based on signed MoUs with UNICEF.</p>
<p>If progress has been slow or inadequate, provide main reasons and what is being done to address them. (250 words max.)</p>	<p>Progress with the Agriculture National Volunteers in terms of their full involvement in peacebuilding activities has been inadequate. Their core functions as agriculturists took most of their time so little time was left for conflict transformation initiatives. An evaluation of the work of the agriculture NVs is ongoing with the USAID's Food and Enterprise Development to identify the lapses and ensure the NVs take time to engage in peacebuilding activities in their assigned communities.</p>
<p>What are the main activities/expected results for the rest of the year? (250 words max.)</p>	<p>The recruitment of the NVs for the 6th batch is currently ongoing. The five-week induction training will start on July 7th. Under the sixth batch, 150 NVs will be deployed at the end of August in 12 counties: 80 in education, 30 in youth centers, 15 in health, 21 in agriculture, and 4 in juvenile justice.</p> <p>The NYSP will be scaled up with a juvenile justice component which major outcome will be to provide support to the too often overlooked juvenile population of the Monrovia Central Prison</p>

	<p>(MCP). The NVs working under this component will work closely with the Ministry of Justice to contribute to the implementation of the Diversion Programme in order to find an alternative to the punitive system already in place.</p> <p>The NYSP will also benefit from an additional scale up with a social accountability component. The social accountability component will be piloted within the education sector in five counties (Bomi, Bong, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, and Margibi) in partnership with the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) and the Ministry of Education.</p>
<p>Is there any need to adjust project strategies/ duration/budget etc.? (500 words max.)</p>	<p>The NYSP could be programmed to run for two years per batch. This will reduce the training cost incurred each year as National Volunteers currently undergo induction training in preparation for taking up assignment. There is a need to increase the number of National Volunteers per batch to make a significant impact on the programme achievement as most host institutions where National Volunteers are assigned are requesting for an increase in their numbers.</p>
<p>Are there any lessons learned from the project in the period reported? (500 words max.)</p>	<p>The Government of Liberia's full commitment to the programme in turns contributing to support programme components. An exit plan/strategy and involvement of all stakeholders in all stages of the programme is critical for the sustainability of the programme. As the NYSP has been turned to government for ownership it requires legislative backing and an autonomous status to fundraise and mobilize resources.</p>
<p>What is the project budget expenditure to date (percentage of allocated project budget expensed by the date of the report) – preliminary figures only?</p>	<p>US\$ 763,686 (52%)</p>
<p>Any other information that the project needs to convey to PBSO (and JSC) at this stage?</p>	<p>The significant impact and achievement made by the NYSP over the years and the constant requests made by host institutions and communities for the continuity of the NYSP services in the counties suggest that the NYSP would need support beyond 2015.</p>

**INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT:** *Using the Project Results Framework as per the approved project document- provide an update on the achievement of key indicators at both the outcome and output level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation in the qualitative text above.*

Note: The baselines for all indicators refer to the 4th batch of National Volunteers (ended in July 2013), except for indicator 2.1 which refers to the 5th batch (started in August 2013).

	<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Indicator Baseline</b>	<b>End of project Indicator Target</b>	<b>Current indicator progress</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)</b>	<b>Adjustment of target (if any)</b>
<b>Outcome 1:</b> Enhanced social cohesion through empowerment and enhanced sustainable livelihoods of youth in conflict-prone areas.	Indicator 1: Number of National Volunteers who are providing services to key institutions in 12 counties (disaggregated by m/f).	159 National Volunteers (130 males, 29 females)	484 National Volunteers [4th: 159 (2012-2013), 5th: 175 (2013-2014) and 6th: 150 (2014-2015) batches]	334 National Volunteers (under the 5th batch, from January to June 2014, 175 National Volunteers (116 males, 59 females) were providing services to key institutions for a one year-service (Sep. 2013-Aug 2014)	Due to financial constraints that arose because of unexpected associated costs, the number of National Volunteers for the 6th batch will have to be reduced to 150 compared to the 175 under the 5th batch.	The number of National Volunteers for the 6th batch has been reduced to 150 compared to the 175 under the 5th batch.
Output 1.1: Increased skills and knowledge of NVs in peacebuilding, leadership, education, health, agriculture and youth centre	Indicator 1.1: Number of NVs trained in peacebuilding, leadership, education, health, agriculture and youth centre	125 National Volunteers were trained. All the volunteers were trained in peacebuilding: 60 Education; 15 Health; 19 Agriculture; 20	470 National Volunteers trained [4th: 125 (2012-2013); 5th: 185 (2013-2014); 6th: 160 (2014-2015) batches]	310 NVs (under the 5th batch, 185 NVs (123 males, 62 females)) were trained.	185 NVs were trained, but 175 were consequently deployed as 10 dropped out because of unsatisfactory performance during training	N/A

agriculture and youth centre development.	development (disaggregated by m/f).	Youth center; 11 in the County Development Superintendent's Office, City Major and the Archives. (85 males and 40 females)				
	Indicator 1.2: Number of NVs who scored at least 70% for the training test.	On average 57% of NVs scored at least 70% for the training test.	All NVs to score at least 70% for the training test. Furthermore, all the different training components will be tested.	57% of NVs scored at least 70% for the training test. (This result does not yet show progress as the percentage is used as the baseline - there were no training tests yet for the 4th batch)	Results obtained for Indicator 1.2 are incomplete and do not reflect the total number of NVs trained in all the different training components. As the percentage reflects only the Child Protection training component, including the other components would alter this result.	Different training components will also be tested under the 6th batch (not only the Child Protection component of the training)
Output 2.1: Selected schools, hospitals, health clinics, youth centres and agriculture projects in 12 counties that benefit from	Indicator 2.1: Number of schools, hospitals, health clinics, youth centres and agriculture projects in 12 counties that benefit from National	41 schools, 13 health clinics, 9 youth centers, 8 county administration offices, and 18 agriculture projects	76 public institutions	52 schools, 8 hospitals, 6 health clinics, 10 youth centers, and 17 agriculture projects	The number of institutions and agriculture projects is not likely to change much due to budget constraints	4 National Volunteers will be deployed at the Monrovia Central Prison as part of the scaling up of the programme to include a juvenile justice component

National Volunteers services.	Volunteer services (disaggregated by institution and county).					
Output 3.1: At least 500 'at risk' or disadvantaged youth benefit from agricultural skills and increased livelihood opportunities.	Indicator 3.1: Number of 'at risk' youth benefitting from agricultural skills training and increased livelihood opportunities.	870 'at risk' youth	3,500 'at risk' youth have benefited from the support of NVs in the agriculture sector.	2,370 'at risk' youth benefited from the support of NVs in the agriculture sector under the 5th batch.	After starting a new partnership with FED we have managed to reach more 'at risk' youth than was planned for. Therefore the target has been adjusted.	The end target has been adjusted from 1,500 to 3,500.
Output 4.1: Selected communities have increased awareness about how to engage in peaceful conflict resolution and dialogue.	Indicator 4.1: Number of communities where awareness campaigns on peacebuilding have been conducted by NVs.	91 communities have received peacebuilding awareness campaigns.	95 communities have received peacebuilding campaigns.	91 communities have benefitted from peacebuilding and conflict resolution awareness campaign.	After the evaluation exercise of agriculture National Volunteers, more communities are expected to benefit from peacebuilding initiatives.	Agriculture National Volunteers to scale up their peacebuilding awareness campaign in the communities.