

UN EBOLA RESPONSE MPTF
PROJECT MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT - VERSION 1
Period: September 2015

Project Number and Title: #9 UNDP Programme for Payments for Ebola Response Workers (PPERW) - Sierra Leone	PROJECT START DATE¹: 01-11-2014	AMOUNT ALLOCATED by MPTF <i>(please indicate different tranches if applicable)</i> \$1,261,625.00	RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Project ID: 00092905			
Project Focal Point: Name: Ghulam Sherani E-mail: Ghulam.sherani@undp.org	EXTENSION DATE: 30-09-2015	FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS	
Strategic Objective (STEPP) SO3 – Ensure Essential Services	PROJECTED END DATE: 31-12-2015	EXPENDITURES as of 30 August \$1,200,797	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER(S): NERC, Ministry of Health and Sanitation; Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
Mission Critical Action MCA07 – Cash incentives for workers			
Location: Sierra Leone	Sub-National Coverage Areas: Freetown, Ebola affected districts		

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT RESULTS MATRIX

OUTPUT INDICATORS

Indicator	Geographic Area	Projected Target (as per results matrix)	Quantitative results for the (one month) reporting period	Cumulative results since project commencement (quantitative)	Delivery Rate (cumulative % of projected total) as of date
<i>Description of the quantifiable indicator as set out in the approved project proposal</i>					
% of Ebola response workers registered on the information management system	All Ebola affected districts	100%	350	35,000	99.5%
% paying organizations reporting to the information management system	All Ebola affected districts	100%	2	4	90%
# of Ebola response workers reported by	All Ebola affected districts	0	0	1	1

¹ The date project funds were first transferred.

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media as striking					
Diagnostic complete, recommendations made to government on financial sector to bolster resilience; Monitoring system fully functional to report incidents	All Ebola affected districts	Diagnostic complete, recommendations adopted, monitoring system functional	Procurement process underway	N/A	N/A
# payments made through operational testing and proof of concept/stress testing (once through 3 months)	All Ebola affected districts	1200	1747	113,989	Over 100%
# people paid through UNDP contingency plan	All Ebola affected districts	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
% local districts with adequate cash out points for forecasted volumes	All Ebola affected districts	100%	100%	100%	100%
EFFECT INDICATORS (if available for the reporting period)					
% of registered Ebola workers linked to a payment mechanism	All Ebola affected districts	100%	100%	100%	100%
% of registered Ebola workers fully paid on-time	All Ebola affected districts	100%	100%	98%	98%

NARRATIVE

Situation Update *(please describe critical changes, if any, in the situation that affect the project (1-2 paragraphs))*

The UNDP Risk Allowance Payment Team has successfully processed the September payments to 1,749 front line ERWs country-wide. So far, UNDP has helped the Government of Sierra Leone through the National Ebola Response Centre (NERC) to successfully pay 13 cycles/ monthly payment to ERWs since November 2014 through electronic money (MNOs and Banks).

The team, with the help of National Ebola Response Centre (NERC), is intensifying its objectives of 100% payments through banks. Approximately 97% of ERW were paid through banks via the automated clearing house and the remaining 3% via bank cheques.

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Furthermore, the team leading the coordination and harmonization of the Allowances paid by various agencies. A series of meetings and consultation have been organized to ensure a harmonized approach is maintained which is critically important in reaching and maintaining Resilient Zero. Additionally, the Payments Team is putting efforts in bring relevant government and international organizations together under the leadership of NERC ensuring wider consultation on the EVD risk Allowance policy. The recommendation for the amendment of the policy was also presented to the Steering Committee meeting. The revised policy (EVD Resilient Zero Allowance Policy) has been circulated widely for feedback and review. Once finalized will be circulated to the 14 districts through the District Ebola Response Centre (DERC) coordinator, District Medical Officers (DMOs), and other agencies or partners in the response.

New contracts has been issued to all the currently active ERWs paid by the NERC. The objectives of issuing these contracts as suggested by the Revised Policy is to ensure; the ERWs know their rights, avoid any duplicates, right ERWs are on the payroll and ERWs are correctly categorized.

Meanwhile, the 'Risk Allowance' team is delivering on its tasks (getting a list of approved names and paying on-time) and improving on parameters such as user education on electronic delivery of money, managing liquidity better at cash-out level and removing double counts and illegible workers.

All the Backlog claims for the month of Jan, Feb and March has been analyzed. This batch 4 of backlogs will be last and final backlog to be paid. The team has paid extra attention to this backlog so that ensure as much as possible that all legitimate ERWs get paid. It is worth mentioning that the Payments Team process and system improved considerably since the risk allowance policy replaced the Hazard Policy on 1st April 2014, that the payments has been 100% successful and there has been no backlog claims from April till date.

The payments team has further strengthened its communication strategy. In addition to the ongoing communication means through radio, email, text and phone call to ERWs, the team has plan in organizing communication meetings and discussions with key stakeholders and team leaders ensuring the information reaches to the target group.

Due to the current trends of the EVD Epi the UNDP no-cost extension request to MPTF until the end of 2015 has been granted. This is in-line with the National Government policy and directives of the HE the President endorsing the current response structure until the end of 2015.

The Payments Programme Team has also been engaged in the transition strategy of NERC and Ebola response. The TOR for the Financial Diagnostics has been finalized. Consultation with the relevant stakeholders is underway to avoid duplication. UNCDF has agreed its financial and technical contribution. Additionally, the end project evaluation TOR has been finalized and posted on UNDP Job website for interested candidates to apply. The process is scheduled to complete by mid Dec 2015.

Key Achievements *(please use this section to highlight your key achievements for the month, using bullet points if preferred)*

- *September payment has been successfully paid to 1,749 Ebola Response Workers in all 12 district including the Western areas rural and urban.*
- *Batch 4 backlog claims of more than 2000 ERWs from across the country has been analyzed. The analysis showed that some paid ERWs were among the claims. Therefore, a total of less than 900 ERWs confirmed to be paid as backlogs for the months of Jan, Feb or March. This will be final backlog payments.*

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- The Risk Allowance Steering Committee meeting has been successfully organized and the Risk Allowance Policy has been substantially reviewed and important amendments have been recommended.
- As the payments shifted from Mobile money to Banks. All the non-cash-out amounts with MNOs were reconciled. The total balanced amount will be returned to NERC.
- The payments Team successfully engaged with the Government Auditors, tasked by the auditor general to audit the Risk Allowance for the period of December 2014 to June 2015. The report is yet to be shared with the NERC and payments team.

Delays or Deviations (if any, briefly describe the delays or changes in focus, approach or targets, and provide a short justification for the change (1-2 paragraphs))

A shift from the Mobile money payment to banks has caused delays in the payments and generally the performance of the Risk allowance payment team. It takes longer for the ERWs to open bank accounts and get account numbers and BBAN numbers. Additionally, the country banking process is slow and cumbersome to such an extent that payments are further delayed and if workers have problems with bank accounts. The procedure for resolution is too bureaucratic unlike mobile money. As a mitigating measure such as the issuance of the contracts (ensure correct Bank Accounts provided) and submission of lists to Payments Team by the facilities and DERCs before the 10th of the respective Month has been introduced. These measures if implemented will help reduce the delays in the risk allowance payments to the front line response workers.

The end of the ITD LABs is still affecting the team's performance especially the database hosting. For the past two weeks, the system was offline and the team has been challenged with accessing the database www.nercpay.sl which has impacted the overall performance of the team. UNDP is leading coordination with the NERC management to see possible ways of remedying the situation and bring the system back online.

There is no significant deviation from the original mandate and objective of the project. However, the current project duration is until the end of September. Whereas the government in understanding with WB in consideration of the current epi situation suggests to continue the risk allowance programme until the end of 2015. Therefore, UNDP requested for no-cost extension until the end of this year.

Gender and Environmental Markers (Please provide disaggregated data, if applicable)

No. of Beneficiaries		Environmental Markers	
Women	1000	e.g. Medical and Bio Hazard Waste	
Girls	N/A	e.g. Chemical Pollution	
Men	749		
Boys	N/A		
Total	1749		

Additional Information (Optional)