

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

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

**MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT RESULTS MATRIX**

**OUTPUT INDICATORS**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Projected Target (as per results matrix)</b>	<b>Quantitative results for the (one month) reporting period</b>	<b>Cumulative results since project commencement (quantitative)</b>	<b>Delivery Rate (cumulative % of projected total)  as of date</b>
<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%	534	35,534	99.9%
% paying organizations reporting to the information management system	All Ebola affected districts	100%	1	5	90%
# of Ebola response workers reported by	All Ebola affected districts	0	0	1	1

<sup>1</sup> The date project funds were first transferred.

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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	N/A	N/A	N/A
# payments made through operational testing and proof of concept/stress testing (once through 3 months)	All Ebola affected districts	1200			
# 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%
<b>EFFECT INDICATORS (if available for the reporting period)</b>					
% 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%	100%	100%

**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 to front line Ebola Response Workers (ERWs) continues payment to health care worker nationwide, the team has put all modalities in place for the implementation of the Zero Resilience Risk Allowance Policy which comes into effect on November 1, 2015.

For the month of October 2015, the team has successfully processed the October pay list to 1,763 ERWs country-wide. So far, UNDP has helped the Government of Sierra Leone through the National Ebola Response Centre (NERC) to successfully pay 14 cycles/ monthly payment to ERWs since November 2014 through electronic money (MNOs and Banks).

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The team, with the help of National Ebola Response Centre (NERC), is intensifying its objectives of 100% payments through banks. More than 99.6% of ERW were paid through banks via the automated clearing house and the remaining less than 04% via bank cheques.

The team has received and is collating the renewed contract issued to all the currently active ERWs paid by the NERC to forestall any discrepancies in contracts submitted as against the names on the pay list. 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 paylist 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 Teams process and system improved considerably since the risk allowance policy replaced the Hazard Policy on 1<sup>st</sup> 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. Face to face communication meetings and monitoring missions have been conducted in 6 districts. The remaining districts will be completed in November.

Due to the transition plan and heightened surveillance plan of 0+42+90 days to ensure resilient zero EVD cases. The NERC has approved the EVD Resilient Zero Policy until 31 December 2015. Therefore, UNDP has initiated submission of no-cost extension request to MPTF until March 30, 2016. 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 and heightened surveillance activities for 90 days after the 0+42.

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 planning is underway and will be initiated soon.

Procurement process for the recruitment of End Project Evaluation consultant has been finalized. The consultant will be issued contract by HQ.

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

- *October payment has been successfully paid to 1,763 Ebola Response Workers in all 12 districts including the Western areas rural and urban.*
- *Batch 4 backlog claims of more than 1500 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 team is fully implementing the revised risk allowance policy which has been endorsed and disseminated to the relevant stakeholder across the country. The policy takes into account the current epi situation with emphasis on the heightened community surveillance and monitoring.
- Communication and Monitoring visit in 6 out of the 12 districts- (Tonbkolili, Magburaka, Bombali, Kenema, Kailahun and Kono). The objectives of the mission trip is to engage district medical officers, District Coordinators, team leaders and ERWs. Furthermore paid on the spot check to the government hospital to assess the operations of the triages and isolation unit.
- Bio metric verification of 532 Ebola response workers for the Goal run Ebola treatment center is presently underway in Portloko.

**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 have 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 payment 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

There is not significant deviation from the original mandate and objective of the project. However, the current project duration is until end of December 2015. Whereas the government in understanding with all the partners in consideration of the current epi situation in the region and heightened surveillance phase of response suggests to continue the risk allowance programme until 7<sup>th</sup> of Feb 2016. Therefore, UNDP requested for no-cost extension until 31 March 2016.

**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	763		
Boys	N/A		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1763</b>		

**Additional Information** (Optional)