

**NAME OF THE PROJECT:** Rehabilitation of Water & Sanitation Facilities for RSLAF barracks in Freetown

**BACK GROUND:** The Sierra Leone PBF Steering Committee approved on 11 July 2007 the project to provide an immediate improvement to the living conditions of RSLAF personnel, and their families, within the barracks in Freetown (Wilberforce, Murray Town and Goodrich). Outputs comprise (1) an adequate and safe supply of drinking water, (2) adequate, sanitary facilities, and (3) rehabilitated Community Health Centers or Medical Inspection (MI) Rooms.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- Tendering for design and supervision for the civil works and tendering for MI Rooms concluded.
- Contract awarded in March for the design and supervision of the civil works. Approval of MI contracts expected later in April.
- Successful hygiene education ongoing with broad community participation.
- Project Board comprising major stakeholders oversees project implementation. Board co-chaired by UNIOSIL and MOD. Other members include IMATT, GUMA, SALWACO, Freetown City Council, RSLAF and UNDP.

**CONSTRAINTS/CHALLENGES:**

- Project requires broad consultations among many partners involved in water and sanitation issues.
- Original plans and lay-out for the barracks have been lost or are destroyed. New surveys needed to be done.
- Inherently, projects with civil works incur slow and modest expenditure at the outset.
- A balance has had to be found between emergency rehabilitation and sustainability of improvement measures, particularly bearing in mind earlier efforts to assist the barrack communities.
- Barracks comprise large communities of service men and their dependants.

**FINANCIAL STATUS:**

Total Budget: USD1,955,706  
Expenditure: USD 177,000

**PLANS TO SPEED UP THE DELIVERY:**

- UNDP has assigned in January 2008 a civil engineer full-time to assist acceleration of implementation.
- Detailed implementation plan is available. Tender documents for remaining works will be ready by the end of April (Storage Tanks and Generators) and end of May (Civil Works). We expect to conclude Tender evaluation at the end of June, for contracts to be awarded during the first week of July.
- 95% of funds under this project will be fully committed by July.
- Risks of further delays are contained in the complexity of the tendering and contracting. To mitigate this risk UNDP will mobilize additional procurement personnel, who will be subsequently deployed to ensure contract compliance.