



## Peacebuilding Fund Support Coordination Office (PBF-SCO)

UNIOSIL HQs. - Mammy Yoko, Aberdeen

### TALKING POINTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PBF - (August 2008)

#### On-Going Projects:

Out of a total of seven projects that were approved between May and July of 2007 and being implemented through UNDP, three have being completed while four are on-giong. The total value of these projects amounted to \$15.98 million which constituted 46.6% of the \$35 million country envelop allocated to Sierra Leone in March 2007. The overall delivery for this first batch of projects stands **at 68%**. These projects were generally initially delayed for a number of reasons including, (the September 2007 elections, the subsequent change in Government, lack of implementation capacities, clarity on roles and responsibilities etc.). UNDP having engaged in numerous actions to increase delivery has also recently revised these timelines and requested for a non cost extension with an end date of December 2008.

**Support to the National Human Rights Commission** has seen the securing, furnishing and equipping of office spaces in Freetown, Bo, Kenema and Makeni, recruitment of 29 staff, provision of vehicles and bikes, staff trainings, development of a five year strategic plan, production of the first state of the human rights report, the hiring of an institutional advisor etc. 72% of this project has been delivered. The commission is beginning to provide an alternative avenue to seeking redress. 150 cases have been handled thus far.

**Support to the Judiciary in clearing backlog cases** has seen the recruitment and training of paralegals, the provision of top-up salaries for Magistrates, provision of computers, vehicles, training of 400 staff in basic computing, on-giong training of the family support unit of the police etc. 59.4% of this project has been delivered. This figure is expected to increase once disbursements are made for mainly rehabilitations works that have being tendered and which form the main outstanding activity. 70% of backlog cases (450) have been cleared. This support has greatly increased the rate of indictments and trials within the Judiciary.

**Youth Empowerment and Employment.** This project suffered initial delays for several reasons. 46% of the budget has been disbursed to support youth groups in starting and or scaling up youth businesses. Employment opportunities for over 4,000 youths are to be created. The Youth Secretariat in concert with MITAF an MFI recruited to provide technical support are in the process of reviewing additional proposals in an effort to commit the remaining funds.

**The Watsan support to the RSLAF** which due to its construction nature had to follow established preliminary procedures is now set to take off. It shall provide water for three key Barracks and their immediate communities in Freetown for a population of about 8,000; provide improved access to medical care by rehabilitating and equipping three medical inspection (MI) rooms and raise awareness on hygiene; the latter is well underway. Contracts for the construction works on the Hard Infrastructure component that shall ensure the delivery of bulk storage tanks, heavy generators and the laying-out of pipes are being re-tendered; the generators are expected to be delivered before end of the year. The contract on the MI rooms which was advised to be re-tendered has now being awarded. Financial delivery including encumbrances stands **at 75%**.



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### **Newly Approved Projects:**

On July 15<sup>th</sup>, 7 additional projects were approved by the Steering Committee for a total value of \$16.7 million. They include Support for the implementation of the truth and reconciliation commission (TRC) recommendation on reparations, support to prisons in increasing reform and living conditions, support to the Anti Corruption Commission, Supporting Women and Children's empowerment, rights and participation in Peace Building, Emergency Support to Energy, Support to the Office of National Security and Support to the Ministry of Finance and Development in engaging on Peace Building Issues. The projects are implemented through UNIFEM, UNICEF, IOM and UNDP. Funds for these projects are currently being transferred from the MDTF in New York to the recipient aforementioned agencies. The PBF-SCO is currently engaging with these agencies to undertake various pre-implementation processes like tendering services, reviewing and operationalizing works plans etc.

### **Pipeline Projects:**

With a PBF balance of \$2.3 million, there are ten projects in the pipeline for consideration by the Steering Committee. These projects are now being desk appraised in concert with the PBFS for engagement with stakeholders about a decision for referring a select number to the Pillar Working Groups.

### **The Peace Building Fund Support and Coordination Office- (PBF-SCO)**

Ministry of Finance and Development charged with the responsibility of overseeing the PBF is setting-up a PBF Secretariat (PBFS) within the Ministry. The structure in the Office of the ERSG in (UNIOSIL) shall henceforth be called PBF-Support and Coordination Office (PBF-SCO). Terms of references for the two structures have been included in the revised terms of reference and rules of procedure of the Steering Committee. This is meant to avoid overlap, promote complementarity and add value. The quarterly monitoring reporting format was also revised to promote results based reporting and monitoring.

### **Up-coming Events:**

The PBF-SCO in concert with the PBSO Office in New York, MoFED and the RC's office is planning towards a lesson's learnt in implementation workshop on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2008. This workshop is part of a communication strategy designed by the PBF-SCO in the bid to increase understanding, stakeholder participation and information sharing. The first PBF-SL newsletter shall also be released in early October in support of this strategy. The first feature story on the Human Rights Commission Project was released in August 2008.

A tentative date for the next Steering Committee meeting has been slated for the 9<sup>th</sup> October. Amongst other items on the agenda shall be the approval of projects in the bid to commit the remaining funds. Operate the ToRs of the new PBFS, technical review committee and the PBF-Support and Coordination Office. Other issues that had needed clarity and that have impacted on implementation were also taken cognizance of. These documents have been circulated to Steering Committee Members for comments.