



Republic of Sierra Leone



United Nations
Sierra Leone

UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PBF PROJECTS - (October 2008)

First Batch of Approved Projects (May-July 2007)

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 70%**. UNDP having engaged in numerous actions to increase delivery has recently revised the timelines for the implementation of these projects and requested for a non cost extension with an end date of December 2008.

Support to the National Human Rights Commission (\$1,522,055.70) 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, training traditional leaders, CSOs etc on human rights including monitoring of Gender and Child rights act. 82% of this project has been delivered.

Support to the Judiciary in clearing backlog cases (\$3,959,772) 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, refurbishment of courts houses, library and civil registry etc. 59% of this project has been delivered. Over 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. (\$ 4,080,907) This project suffered initial delays for several reasons. 39% of the budget has been disbursed to support youth groups in starting and or scaling up youth businesses mainly

through the provision of micro-finance; over 4,000 youths are to benefit. The Youth Secretariat in concert with MITAF an MFI recruited to provide technical support and UNDP are in the process of reviewing additional proposals in an effort to commit the remaining funds. Some thirteen out of one hundred proposals submitted are to be tabled to the project steering committee for approval. UNDP, ILO and Government are also in an advanced stage of organizing a national labor force survey.

The Watsan support to the RSLAF (\$1,955,706) which due to its construction nature had to follow established preliminary procedures is now set to take off. It shall provide water for three major military 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 etc have been tendered. The bids for the MI rooms have also been evaluated. Bids for the Construction of boreholes and submersible pumps are being evaluated. The Financial delivery including encumbrances stands at **75%**.

Newly Approved Projects:

On July 15th, 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 have been transferred by the MDTF in New York to the recipient agencies. The PBF-SCO is currently engaging with these agencies in undertaking various start-up activities like tendering services, reviewing and operationalizing works plans etc.

Pipeline Projects:

For the PBF balance of \$2.3 million, six out of the ten pipeline projects have been recommended for review by the technical committee. A total amount of \$200,000 has been reserved under the emergency window of the PBF to respond to unforeseen emerging threats to peace.

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

Ministry of Finance and Development charged with the responsibility of overseeing the PBF has setup a PBF Secretariat (PBFS) within the Ministry. The structure in the Office of the ERSG in (UNIPSIL) shall henceforth be called PBF-Support and Coordination Office (PBF-SCO). Terms of references for the two structures have

been included in a revised term of reference and rules of procedure of the Steering Committee. This is meant to avoid overlap, promote complementarity and add value.

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 in January 2009. This shall be preceded by a Steering Committee meeting in December 2008. The first PBF-SL newsletter shall be released in December in support of a communication strategy designed by the PBF-SCO.