

**Liberia Peacebuilding Office
QUARTERLY REPORT
As of 30 September 2009**

Recipient UN Organization:	UNDP	PBF Priority Area:	3: Strengthening State Capacity for Peace Consolidation		
Implementing Partner(s):	Ministry Of Internal Affairs				
Project Number:	PBF/LBR/E-2 (PBF/PP/R1/A3/01)				
Project Title:	Government of Liberia Peace Building Office				
Project Description	<p>Establishment of a Peacebuilding Office (PBO) in the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) in Liberia supporting Government's conflict sensitive approach and Peacebuilding opportunities throughout the PRS. Overall project includes PBF-L Secretariat support.</p> <p>Outputs and Key Activities: Creation of conflict sensitive framework. Key Government decision-makers (Ministers and Agency heads) understand conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding. Dissemination of CS framework to all levels of Government. Information gathered and shared on hotspots and emerging conflicts through early warning mechanisms. PBO staff trained in conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding. PBO provides technical advice to GoL on applying conflict sensitivity. Key functional activities of the PBF Liberia secretariat covered.</p>				
Total Approved Project Budget	902,759				
Funds Committed:	902,759	Percentage of Approved:			
Funds Disbursed:	902,759	Percentage of Approved:	100%		
SC Approval Date:	29-Sep-2008				
Expected Project Duration:	18 months	Forecast Final Date:	30 th June 2010	Delay (Months):	4 months

Outputs:	Progress:	Percentage of planned:
Joint Steering Committee Meetings	Facilitated/organised two meetings of the Joint Steering Committee where policy decisions on the management of the funds were made. Two proposals were approved by the JSC (The Small Grants and The Monitoring & Evaluation proposals).	90%
Monitoring PBF Projects by PBO & recipient agencies	Field visit to Nimba and Grand Gedeh to monitor UNESCO peace education and human rights project, as well as the UNHCR community empowerment project in the same locations as well as the Tumutu Agricultural Training Program in Bong County.	45%
Training of PBO Staff and others	Five PBO staff benefitted from a five-day peace building project monitoring training facilitated by Cheyenne Church of CDA Collaborative Learning Project based in Boston, USA. The training focused on identifying SMART peacebuilding indicators for monitoring and developing Monitoring Plan. The three (3) priority areas in the Liberia Priority Plan were technically reviewed and analysed to determine the appropriate peacebuilding impacts in time to come. Priority areas one and two were determined to in the future address to a significant extent the peacebuilding needs as articulated in the PRS – the Secretariat is in the process of revising the Priority Plan. A total of 35 participants were trained by PBO during July	85%

	<p>in collaboration with ACCORD of South Africa. The training intended to build capacities of members of Civil Society Organizations and Government officials as well as representatives from the United Mission in Liberia. Additionally, 25 youth members from different youth organizations in Liberia were trained on the use of non-violent approach to conflict resolution. This training was done in collaboration with an international group based in the United States Peace In Focus. Peace In Focus is a public charity organization committed to working with communities around the world that are afflicted by or are in the transition from periods of violence and instability. Working through grassroots peace photojournalism, Peace In Focus seeks to engaged underserved and at-risk youth in a dialogue for peace through collaborative photography and conflict transformation workshops.</p>	
Disseminate, Communicate and advocate PBF best practices	PBO held three talk shows on the PBF Portfolio for Liberia as an attempt to create visibility and understanding on the operations of the Fund in Liberia	
Social Mobilization	<p>The PBO completed social mobilization training in preparation for construction of peace huts for nine counties Peace Network Committees (Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Cape Mount, Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa, Rivercess, Bong and Nimba counties). A total of 50 persons (Male-43 and female-7) attended these trainings. The objective of the training was to create ownership of peace huts, which are intended to be used by Government and communities as an instrument for conflict resolution. The Peace Committee have conducted social mobilizations in the districts where the Peace Huts are being constructed.</p>	80%
Peace Hut Construction	<p>The construction of 10 Peace Huts commenced during the period under review in 10 districts within 4 counties; Bomi County (Suehn/Mecca, Klay and Senjeh districts); Gbarpolu County (Bopolu and Kongba districts); Grand Cape Mount County (Gola-Konneh, Garwula and Tewor districts) and Montserrado County (Caldwell and Harrisburg districts).</p>	85%
Coordination Meetings	<p>Two key coordination meetings were held during the period: PBF funded projects program Managers and Implementing Partners along with the PBO had a coordination meeting; key outcomes from these meetings were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the PBO acts as repository for all training manuals and project activities including contact information for managers and partners, geographic locations for all activities, and quarterly progress updates. This information order than the training manual will be sent to project managers and partners on a quarterly basis. 2. That cluster working groups are established based on closed connections of related projects to maximize on building linkages and synergies. For example, the UNESCO, UNICEF and the VPP projects are closely linked, so they need to work in cluster; 3. That quarterly coordination meeting of project managers is held to review and learn lessons and promising best 	80%

	<p>practices;</p> <p>4. That partners in the same geographic locations adapt an integrated approach through regular meetings, information sharing and building linkages;</p> <p>5. That responding to section on outcome on the quarterly reporting template is applicable to those whose projects meet long length in operations, at least for a minimum of 9 months.</p> <p>A coordination meeting was held between the Peace Building Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Angie Brooks Centre for Women Empowerment, International Peace, Security and Development. Results of the meeting were to harmonise activities of both entities related to peacebuilding as well as to foster peacebuilding relationships with emphasis on training peace monitors for Liberia.</p> <p>Additionally, the PBO convened a Technical Working Committee meeting to discuss Liberia's participation in the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and State building. The Secretariat also reconvened the Peacebuilding and Conflict Sensitive Working Group (PBCSWG) and held a meeting to revise the ToR of the WG and to discuss its work plan. The PB&CSWG will help review the Government PRS and advise the Government on where it stands in implementing deliverables related to addressing root causes of conflict in Liberia and on conflict sensitive policy making and development.</p>	
Early Warning & Conflict hot spot analysis	The development of conflict early warning system for Liberia was discussed with couple of stakeholders including Humanity Unity of USA, ECOWAS and WANEP-Liberia. It was agreed that the PBO develop draft Concept Note on conflict early warning including the existing County Peace Committee. The development process is well underway. Further, Hot spot analysis planned was not held due to multiple tasks and international visits of some stakeholders.	55%

Outcomes:	Progress: (In terms of Indicators)	Comments/Remarks:
Social cohesion	There are gradual reduction of social tensions amongst ethnic groups particularly the Gio/Mano in Nimba County as evidenced by increased interactions and working on the County Development Fund. Also, reduction in political tensions evidenced by the peaceful nature of political campaign during the by-election which is unlike during 2005 when there were hostilities noted amongst partisans from all sides.	The PBF/PBO requires facilitating the creation of more links between localized peacebuilding and national level initiatives so as to measure cumulative impacts of the PBF portfolio in Liberia.
Conflict sensitivity programming	Government's programs and policies framework should be integrated by conflict sensitivity but efforts to measure results in this area has been low due to the delay for the CDA to conduct training of PBO staff and Government officials.	An effort to mainstream conflict sensitivity in government's programs and policies is shortly to begin as training of PBO staff and Government officials begins mid November 2009.

Rule of Law	Gradual confidence and trust are being built in the rule of law system in Liberia.	There is gradual expansion of rule of law in Liberia but requires more efforts.
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Qualitative achievements against expected results:

As a PBF Secretariat to perform secretariat functions of both JSC and PBSO, and as PBO to strengthen Government's capacity in conflict sensitivity; secretariat functions over the quarterly period were performed with due diligence with trouble shooting of projects and corrective measures taken by the implementing agencies to address those issues. As a PBO, ten peace huts against twenty-two are near completion in ten administrative districts in western Liberia. Capacity development through training of PBO staff, government officials and civil society organizations were completed with over 90 persons trained in peacebuilding and social mobilization during different times. Strategic meetings of project managers and supervisors were held to exchange information on best practices, as well as efforts to increase coordination amongst partners and begin to build synergies between PBF funded projects. Radio talk-shows and news paper information on activities of the PBF Projects were carried out as a strategy to increase visibility of the Fund in Liberia.

Challenges (If Necessary):

Amongst key challenges include the following:

- *Delay to recruit Conflict Sensitivity and Training Officer.* This process took over five months which to a larger extent affected training plan;
- *Delay to conclude recruitment and Contract for training firm* to conduct training for PBO staff and first 60 - 75 government officials against 120 in conflict sensitivity. Slow pace in moving forward with review and analysis of the PRS deliverables implementation is attributed to this challenge;
- *Inadequate monitoring of PBF funded projects* and limited staffs during the period under review were challenges due to back-to-back visits of international partners to build capacity, as well as other related tasks. For example, training of PBO staff in PB SMART Indicators training; regular site visits of peace hut construction. Also, limited staff strength in terms of number. For example, the Director was out on missions, the Conflict Sensitivity and Training Officer was not in place and the end of Contract of the Peacebuilding and Capacity Development Advisor, thus leaving in place three technical staff with multiple tasks.