



**UNITED NATIONS PEACEBUILDING FUND**  
**ANNUAL PROJECT NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT**  
**REPORTING PERIOD: 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY – 31 DECEMBER 2009**

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**Country and Thematic Area**  
Sierra Leone – Justice and Security

**Programme No: PBF/SLE/B-9**  
**MDTF Office Atlas No:**  
**Programme Title:** Promoting Regional  
Cooperation in Makona River Union

**Participating Organization(s):**  
International Organization for Migration

**Implementing Partners:**  
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Makona River  
Union (MaRU))

**Programme Budget (from the Fund):**  
*For Joint Programme provide breakdown by  
UN Organization*  
UN Org A: \$ US 130,000  
UN Org B:

**Programme Duration (in months): 12  
months**  
Start date: July 2009  
End date: June 2010  
• **Original end date:** September 2009  
• **Revised end date:** December 2009:  
Budget Revisions/Extensions:  
*List budget revisions and extensions, with  
approval dates, if applicable*

## Purpose

- **Brief Background of the project**

The decade long civil war in Sierra Leone gained momentum in Kissi land just three days after it was declared that a rebel incursion from Liberia has been launched into Sierra Leone. It suffices to say that the war itself started in Kissi Land and also ended there. The reasons for this are numerous, but a key factor is the porous border crossings in this region.

The people in these boarder communities sharing similar tradition and culture had being living in peace, sharing resources including land for their livelihood activities. They also traded during market days and were allowed to freely move between their boarders which led to a lot of intermarriages. The Guinean Government which claimed to own a strategic community (Yenga) had for the better part since the end of the conflict occupied this area causing major disruption in livelihoods and cross boarder trade. This has impacted on the social capital of such communities, breeding bad blood, disenchantment and grief. As negotiations for the hand over of Yenga continues, issues around reestablishment of linkages, trust and camaraderie in the Yenga area will remain

The coming together of the people of the Makona River Union (MaRU) of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, headed by their Parliamentary Representatives to find a common solution to their socio-economic problems and particularly the Yenga Border crisis between Sierra Leone and Guinea, is the predicator for the formation of what is today MaRU.

MaRU therefore is working assiduously to mend the broken fences, heal the wounds in the minds of its people, reconcile them once again and build the confidence they use to have in each other, even across international boundaries.

The Local Authorities within the Union are to be seen playing key roles to foster and bring about reconciliation among their people. They should be able to address conflict and potential conflict issues, but to do these, they need to employ specialized skills in conflict resolutions, conflict management and Leadership, which most of them lack presently. This project intends to provide them with the requisite ability to manage the situation for the continued occupation and even after the handing over of Yenga. The traditional rulers command the respect of their subjects and also that of their central governments; thus it is essential to adequately build their capacities so that they can effectively translate the desires and wishes of their peoples to their central governments, particularly in relation to the Yenga issue. Moreover, building their capacities, especially in the arena of good governance, will enhance their dispensation of authority judiciously which will foster an atmosphere of peaceful coexistence amongst their people.

This shall increase the interaction between the inhabitants of this area, creating an atmosphere of peace and tranquility through dialogue and other social activities. It is in this vein that support is being sought from the PBF to capacitate the Makona River Union to organize events that facilitate such gatherings.

The CBOs and CSOs operating in these communities are reflective of the peoples' aspirations; therefore, building their capacities will be an effective vehicle for reconciliation, confidence building, community development and economic growth. This is all the more reason why this project is necessary and timely. It is hoped that, this project will contribute immensely to achieving the aspirations of the peoples of the Makona River Basin in particular and the sub-region in general.

- **Main Objective**

Contribute to promoting regional integration for border communities.

- **Expected Outcomes**

1. Contribute to rejuvenation and increase in joint socio-economic activities.
2. Contribute to increased trust and feeling of security amongst the boarder communities.

This project supports the UN strategic peace building plan for Sierra Leone as it will increase the interaction between the inhabitants of this boarder area, creating an atmosphere of peace and tranquility through dialogue and other social activities. They can bridge their differences and influence their governments to bring about a peaceful resolution of the Yenga issue.

## **I. Resources**

Besides the \$ 130,000 received from the UN PBF, the project has not gained access to other funding.

Using the UN PBF funding, seven community based staff were recruited to implement the project. These included; Project Coordinator, 3 Field supervisors, 1 Book Keeper, 1 Secretary/Admin Assistant and a Driver.

## **II. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements**

This project's implementation strategy focus on building the capacity of Makona River Union (MaRU) to serve as a vehicle for reconciliation, increased security and economic rejuvenation in the boarder area. MaRU is a community based organization that has a significant presence in the boarder area shared by the three countries – Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia.

With the PBF support that provided MaRU with logistics and relevant staff, the Union will facilitate the implementation of joint socio-economic activities in the region, conduct peace building and reconciliation workshops for relevant stakeholders and take a lead in mobilizing and sensitizing the community to foster peace in the region.

IOM is responsible for the procurement of logistics. Procurement was outsourced by national tender and the procedures were within IOM policies and procedures on procurement. The participation of MaRU in opening and selection of bids was encouraged.

Monitoring of the project implementation was done at various levels and in various forms. Activity and process level monitoring on a daily basis is carried out by MaRU project Unit and IOM. IOM conducts ad-hoc field monitoring visits to verify implementation of activities and as well as to interview stakeholders about impact of the project activities. The project monitoring process allowed the collection of information for documentations of lessons learned during the project implementation. These useful lessons will inform planning and implementation of the project in the next quarters.

## **III. Results**

There are two intended outcomes for this project:

- I. Contribute to rejuvenation and increase in joint socio-economic activities.
- II. Contribute to increased trust and feeling of security amongst the boarder communities.

These outcomes would be realized through project outputs shown in the table below. The table also established the linkage between the outputs, planned activities, achievements and % of achievement for each planned out.

Project Outputs	Planned Activities	Achievements	%
Establish functioning secretariat (Project Management Unit).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquire furnished office space and recruit programme coordinator and 6 support staff.</li> <li>• Procurement of equipment, 1 vehicle and 3 motor bikes. (The office equipment included 2 Personal computers, 1 laptop, 2 cassava graters, 1 photocopier, 1 multipurpose printer and a rice hauler).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two office spaces were acquired at Freetown and Koindu and were fully furnished. A project coordinator and six support staff (3 field supervisors, a bookkeeper, a driver and 1 admin/secretarial staff) recruited.</li> <li>• Procurement of below items was outsourced and all items were delivered to the IOM office and handed over; 1 vehicle and 3 motor bikes. (The office equipment included 2 Personal computers, 1 laptop, 2 cassava graters, 1 photocopier, 1 multipurpose printer and a rice hauler).</li> </ul>	100%
Undertake joint agricultural activities and trade fairs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquire land for agricultural production.</li> <li>• Land preparation for bananas, oil palm and cassava production and establishment of rice seed nurseries and preparation of Inland Valley Swamps (IVS).</li> <li>• Procure assorted farm tools.</li> <li>• Transplanting to IVS and transplanting of oil palm seedling, banana suckers, cassava cutting and cultivation and harvesting of IVS rice crop.</li> <li>• Trade fair in Geuckedou (Guinea).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plots (44 acres) of land including inland valley swamps for agricultural production were acquired.</li> <li>• Land preparation for the planting of oil palm, cassava and inland valley swamp rice was carried out and the various crops were planted and crop seedling acquired and nurseries established.</li> <li>• Various farm tools were procured.</li> <li>• Work on cultivated cassava and oil palm crops was continued and the first rice crop was harvested in December 2009.</li> <li>• One trade fair was organised in Gueckedou, border town on the</li> </ul>	100%

		Liberian side of the border. Dignitaries and groups from the Makona Regions of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia graced the occasion.	
Organize reconciliation football matches.	Reconciliation football gala (in Koindu.	One reconciliation football tournament was organised in Koindu, border town on the Sierra Leonean side of the border for teams in the MaRU Basin. The football gala was held on the 26 <sup>th</sup> December 2009 in Koindu. MaRU teams from Guinea and Sierra Leone participated. The Liberia team could not participate due to the death of one of their executive members. The Guinean team won the trophy by a post game penalty (5-3).	100%
Organize a peace building training of trainers workshop for CBOs and CSOs operating in the Makona Basin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training of trainers workshop for CBOs and CSOs in the MaRU.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One day ToT workshop for CBOs and CSOs in the MaRU conducted in August for 27 participants.</li> </ul>	100%
Conduct a leadership training workshop for MaRU Leaders and Local authorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a leadership training workshop for MaRU leaders and opinion leaders.</li> <li>• Workshop for opinion leaders in MaRU Basin.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One day leadership training for MaRU opinion leaders was conducted for 66 participants in September.</li> <li>• One workshop for opinion leaders in the MaRU to promote peace and Reconciliation in the region was organized in September. The workshop was attended by fifty (50) participants including ten (10) members each from Guinea and Liberia. Ten participants were also drawn from each of the three Kissi Chiefdoms in Kailahun district (Sierra Leone).</li> </ul>	100%

The project implementation process is still mid way of the timeframe set for completion, however, high level of community participation in project activities, especially by members from the three neighboring countries is a demonstration of healing and reconciliation taking place in the region.

## **V. Future Work Plan (if applicable)**

The work plan for the remaining period 1 January to 30 June 2010 is listed below:

- I. Second workshop for CBOs and CSOs in Makona basin
- II. Second trade fair to be organized in Nongowa (Guinea)
- III. Second football gala to be organized in Foya (Liberia)
- IV. Second workshop for MaRU opinion leaders and local authorities to be organized in Foya (Liberia)
- V. Third trade fair to be organized in Buedu (Sierra Leone)
- VI. Erection of a peace monument in Koindu (Sierra Leone)

- **Performance Indicators (optional)**