



UNITED NATIONS PEACEBUILDING FUND
ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2009

Submitted by:
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Country and Thematic Area²
Sierra Leone.
Democracy and Good Governance

Programme No: PBF/SLE/A-5
MDTF Office Atlas No: 00057852
Programme Title:
Capacity building for Sierra Leone Parliament
for enhanced performance of its core functions
of representation, oversight and legislative
enactment

Participating Organization(s):
International Organization for Migration- IOM
United Nations Integrated Peace building Office
in Sierra Leone- UNIPSIL

Implementing Partners:

- *Sierra Leone Parliament National counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others)*
- *International Organizations, including NGOs*

Programme Budget (from the Fund):
For Joint Programme provide breakdown by UN Organization
UN Org : \$700,000

Programme Duration (in months):
Start date³: July 2009
End date: July 2010

- *Original end date July 2010*
- *Revised end date, if applicable*
- *Operational Closure Date⁴, if applicable:*

Budget Revisions/Extensions:
List budget revisions and extensions, with approval dates, if applicable

¹ The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² E.g. Priority Area for the Peacebuilding Fund; Thematic Window for the Millennium Development Goals Fund (MDG-F); etc.

³ The start date is the date of the first transfer of funds from the MDTF Office as Administrative Agent.

⁴ All activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MDTF programme have been completed. Agencies to advise the MDTF Office.

NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

I. Purpose

Since Sierra Leone gained independence from Britain in April 1961, its Parliament has been a major player in the building, strengthening and expansion of pluralistic democracy in the country. However, Parliament's contribution and overall impact on democracy building and governance reform has been marginal and overshadowed by the country's much troubled political history of insecurity and instability consequent on many years of poor political and economic governance, exacerbated by military misadventure.. Until 1996 when multi-party democracy was re-introduced, Parliament remained a rubber-stump institution under a long period of one-party rule during which it was increasingly difficult to exact horizontal accountability against the executive branch due to blurred lines of distinction between party and government functions. Throughout this long interlude of political turbulence, Parliament experienced a hemorrhage of its well trained and experienced technical, legal and administrative professionals that seriously depleted its institutional capacity thereby effectively disabling it to discharge its core oversight and legislative functions.

This project therefore intends to re-strengthen the capacity and capability of the secretariat of parliament and the appointed parliamentarians to be able to effectively carry out the basic functions of parliament (representation, oversight and legislation. The project shall provide trainings for 124 parliamentarians and 25 secretariat staff and provide basic logistics to the secretariat. It shall also provide books, computers and shelves for a resource centre.

When implemented, such initiatives have the potential to significantly enhance Parliament's untapped ability to mobilize, through the legislative and budget processes, a critical mass of national, regional and international support essential to consolidate peace and durably stabilize the country thereby contributing to the strengthening of democratic and accountable governance, thus supporting the government's efforts in achieving the goals enshrined in the Agenda for Change.

Main Objectives

1. Contributing to a better serviced and more efficient legislative process as a result of improved capacity of the secretariat of Parliament being exposed to modern management practices.
2. Contribute to improved capability of newly elected parliamentarians for enhanced representation, oversight and legislative enactment.

Main outputs of the project are:

1. Capability building in terms of relevant training provided to 25 members of the Secretariat of Parliament including 12 recruited clerks of comities and 8 research assistants in modern parliamentary management.
2. Basic Logistics/materials provided to support the Secretariat's and Parliament's operations
3. Elected parliamentarians trained on better representation techniques of debates and development issues.
4. Elected Parliamentarians trained in better oversight of Government through the budgetary process.
5. Elected Parliamentarians trained in the debate and enactment of pro-poor post war legislative techniques.

Programme relates to the Strategic (UN) Planning Framework

The peace building fund is a flexible peace building tool that supports the UN broader peace building objectives in countries at risk of relapsing into conflict. The Sierra Leone parliament since independence from Britain in April 1961 has been a major player in the building, strengthening and expansion of pluralistic democracy and fostering of peace in the country. However, Parliament's contribution and overall impact on democratic building, peace and governance reform has been marginal and overshadowed by the country's much troubled political history of insecurity and instability consequent on many years of poor political and economic governance, exacerbated by military misadventure.

Given that the long-term stability of post-war Sierra Leone depends to a large extent on the consolidation of representative democracy and peace, the support the peace building fund gave to parliament has Parliament to function optimally through enhanced oversight of government processes and contribute to the consolidation of peace in Sierra Leone.

For Parliament to be able to effectively engage the government and civil society, as well as function satisfactorily, especially on national programmes aimed at poverty reduction and increasing growth and development, the provision by UNPBF of technical capacity and other resources is critical. Intimate knowledge and understanding of national, regional and international geopolitical dynamics of legislative processes, some of which could be the potential causes of conflict, is central to Parliament's ability to legislate on initiatives for the benefit of peace-building and consolidation. Broadly, therefore, this project takes into consideration the post-conflict situation of Sierra Leone and the consequent need for Parliament to play effectively its role in conflict resolution and prevention as well as promoting national reconciliation.

To this end, this project has addressed a number of capacity gaps that were identified, through a consultative needs assessment process, as being major challenges to Parliament's performance and effective contribution to peace-building. So far the areas of support so addressed has help strengthen the capacity of the Parliament to perform its law-making, oversight and representational roles more efficiently. Further, enhanced institutional capacity has enable Parliament to make a tangible contribution to the strengthening of democratic and accountable governance, thus establishing a climate that is more conducive to peace and development for all and protecting the rights of the people.

II. Resources

Financial Resources:

The only funding available to this project at present is the \$ 700,000 received from the UN PBF. No budget revisions were done.

With this funding, the project recruited 12 clerks of parliamentary committees, 8 Researchers, 3 drivers. 1 Program manager, 1 Administrative and Finance Assistant and 1 Program Assistant.

III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

The project is implemented by International Organization for Migration (IOM) in close collaboration with a sub committee of the parliamentary service commission and technical support from UNIPSIL.

The Project Technical Committee under the Co-Chairs of the speaker of parliament and a representative from IOM is providing overall technical guidance for the implementation of the project. The project technical committee meets on a weekly basis to discuss implementation of project activities, lessons, challenges and to review implementation plans. A project management unit (PMU) is also set up with responsibility to implementation of the project. The Project Technical Committee is also providing overall guidance for the monitoring and evaluation of the entire project.

IOM is operating the PMU to ensure that IOM procedures and the PBF guidelines for disbursement, procurement and reporting are strictly adhered to. IOM's key roles include overseeing hiring of consultants/service provider for trainings and arranging for external sub regional training. It shall also provide support in areas in which it has expertise. IOM also supervises management of resources from all partners for the implementation of the project, financial management, including disbursement of resources and other forms of support to partner organizations to implement activities as agreed upon by the Project Technical Committee (PTC), and based on agreed monitoring tools, including quality reporting on both narrative and finances.

IOM oversees the submission of quarterly financial and narrative progress reports to the Chair of the Technical Committee and the Steering Committee.

Financial disbursement is premised on the agreed work plan, budgets and monitoring tools, including quality reporting on both narrative and finances. These implementation mechanisms set up made provisions for all stakeholders in the project to be involved in the direct implementation of the project. This in turn has made it easier for close collaboration and understanding during the implementation of the project.

Procurement procedures utilized so far is Competitive Bidding process based on the IOM procurement procedures. There are no variances with standard procedures.

Monitoring:

Monitoring is being done at various levels and in various forms. Activity level monitoring on a daily basis which is the responsibility of the Project Technical Committee PTC, the PMU in collaboration with UNIPSIL. Together, they ensure efficacy in quality of delivered materials, efficiency in their costs and timelines of delivery. This monitoring is supported by relevant documentation (weekly updates, quarterly reports, etc.) Monitoring is further supported by the PBF Technical Secretariat by informing the PBF Steering and Technical Committee on activities of the project and by triangulating monitoring information fed into its system by IOM. The PMU (IOM) in this direction submits quarterly monitoring reports to the PBF Secretariat.

Lessons learned are identified mostly during the daily monitoring activities. These lessons learned are discussed at the PMU and PTC levels to ascertain their suitability for the project after which they are incorporated into the project.

IV. Results

During the reporting time, the below planned outputs and outcomes were achieved. Capacity building provided to 25 members of the Secretariat of Parliament in modern parliamentary administration and

management techniques. With this output, staff was recruited and the training have not been done within this period. This other activity is planned in the next phase

Project Outputs	Planned Activities	Achievements	%
Capability building in terms of relevant training provided to 25 members of the Secretariat of Parliament including 12 recruited clerks of comities and 8 research assistants in modern parliamentary management.	Recruitment of staff. Training of 25 staff members of parliament.	12 Clerks recruitment, 8 researcher and 3 drives. Not done.	50%
Basic Logistics /materials provided to support the Secretariat's and Parliament's operations.	Award of procurement contract and procurement of logistic materials.	Logistics materials procured and delivered.	100%
Elected parliamentarians trained on better representation techniques of debates and development issues.	Training of Parliamentarians.	Not done.	
Elected Parliamentarians trained in better oversight of Government through the budgetary process.	Training of Parliamentarians.	Not done.	
Elected Parliamentarians trained in the debate and enactment of pro-poor post war legislative techniques	Training of Parliamentarians.	Not done.	

Under this output 20 new staff was employed and this new staff had significantly reduced the heavy work load on the six existing clerks. With these new staff, parliamentary committees now boost of improved and timely reporting on committee meetings and improved filling, publication, research, data storage and their activities have also impacted on positive service delivery in the operations of parliament.

So far planned project activities are on course and there are signs that the project will be implemented as scheduled.

The support and cooperation IOM has received so far from the partners (UNIPSIL, UNPBF-SCO and Sierra Leone Parliament) have contributed immensely to the achievement of project results. The partners are always available during meeting, even at short notice. The contributions partners made in meetings are constructive and geared towards the successful implementation of the project.

V. Future Work Plan (if applicable)

Project Outputs	Planned Activities	Cost
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Capability building provided to 25 members of the secretariat of parliament including 20 recruited clerks and research assistants in research and modern management.	Induction training for new and old secretariat staff.	Project budget
Basic Logistics/materials provided to support the secretariat's and parliament's operations.	Procurement and distribution of logistical materials to parliament.	Project budget
124 elected parliamentarians trained on better representation techniques of debates and development issues.	Plan for and undertake a symposium for MPs on strengthening and expanding representative democracy. Plan for and undertake introductory training for MPs in and computer usage	Project budget
124 parliamentarians trained in better oversight of government through the budgetary process.	Plan for and provide two rounds of training for MPs in budgeting and Project LFM/ budget reviews and government budgetary cycle and beginning to show increased capacity for improved oversight. Plan for and train MPs and clerical staff in scrutiny of audit reports and budget preparatory process and cycle.	Project budget
124 parliamentarians trained in the debate and enactment of pro-poor post war legislative techniques.	Plan for and train MPs on speech writing and participation in parliamentary debates/legislative caucuses. Plan for and undertake training for MPs in legislative procedures relating to: agenda setting in the Business Committee; procedure for origination of Private Member motions, etc.	Project budget

VI. Performance Indicators (optional)⁵

VII. Abbreviations and Acronyms

UNIPSIL - United Nations Integrated Peace building Office in Sierra Leone

UN - United Nations

⁵ E.g. for the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund and the MDG-F.

PMU - Project Management Unit

IOM - International Organization for Migration

PTC - Project Technical Committee

MPs - Members of Parliament

UNPBF-SCO- United Nations Peace building Fund Support and Coordination Office.

