



Peacebuilding Fund

2010 ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2010

Submitted by:

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Country and Thematic Area²:

Sierra Leone, Peace Consolidation

Programme No: PBF/SLE/J-4

MDTF Office Atlas No: 00073335

Programme Title:

Independent Review Panel

Participating Organization(s):

UNDP, UNIPSIL

Implementing Partners:

- **National counterparts**
Office of the President

Programme Budget (from the Fund):

USD 25,000

Programme Duration (in months):

Start date³: 16 December 2009

End date: 31 December 2010

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.

I. Purpose

In March 2009, Sierra Leone was hit by the biggest eruption of violence since the end of the conflict in 2002. Violent clashes involving the supporters of the two main parties resulted in multiple injuries and destruction. On 13 March 2009, a large crowd of supposed APC sympathizers pelted the offices of the SLPP in Freetown with stones and other objects. Vehicles in the SLPP officers, including one belonging to the Secretary-General of the party were burnt during the incident. Reports were received of an attempt to set ablaze sometime between the 13 and 14 of March, a vehicle belonging to the Resident Minister for the Eastern Province in Kenema. On April 2, the two parties publicly pledged to work together to prevent further political violence in the country. In a joint communiqué signed in front of President and witnessed by the ERSO, the All Peoples Congress (APC) and the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) vowed to "work jointly in preventing all forms of political incitement, provocation and intimidation".

In light of the foregoing, it is at the outset important to determine the cause of the incidents and how these related problems arose. To that end, the establishment of the Panel is a step in the right direction. The creation of the Panel is a good indication that the Government wishes to ensure that there is transparency in governance. The panel will be charged with;

1. Reviewing and determining the circumstances as well as establish the facts relating to the incidents of political violence that occurred during March 2009 in Pujehun, Freetown and Kenema, as well as the role and responsibilities of political parties, law enforcement agencies or any other persons or groups in relation to the incidents of political violence and intolerance;
2. Making necessary findings or conclusions that shall provide a full understanding of the circumstances that resulted in the incidents; and
3. Recommending measures to be taken and mechanisms to be put in place to effectively prevent the occurrence of any such incidents in the future.

It is expected that the Panel's work shall in the medium to long-term contribute to the following outcomes;

1. Reduce political violence and intolerance;
2. Promote transparency
3. Help foster reconciliation between the political parties
4. Advance adherence to the 2 April Joint Communiqué.

The targets were not annualized in CPAP due to the background of programme which has been designed as the emergency support during the second quarter of the year to respond to the emerging political initiative. Based on the main pillars of CPAP 2008-2010, however, the programme was coherently linked to the third main component of CPAP which is 'Community Recovery and Preventative Development'. Under this component, 'strategic interventions in security, youth and communal levels implemented' is set as the targeted outcome for the development area of 'Strategic Peacebuilding Interventions' and this programme has been implemented to achieve this target.

II. Resources

Financial Resources:

The PBF fund of USD 25,000 was fully utilized by the end of 2010.

Human Resources:

To implement the programme, following Human Resources were on board in 2010:

International:

- Civil Affairs Officer – UNIPSIL
- UNV Programme Manager (Youth and Peacebuilding) – UNDP

National:

- Civil Affairs Officer - UNIPSIL
- Programme Associate - UNDP
- 3 Members of the Panel
- 1 Secretary and 2 Support Staff

III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

The programme has been directly executed by UNDP in collaboration with the UNIPSIL Political and Peace Consolidation Unit Team. Designing and planning of programme has been mainly done by UNIPSIL Political and Peace Consolidation while UNDP provided technical and operational advice on effective implementation. Actual management of each project was done by UNDP. Procurement was carried out by UNDP and regular monitoring and evaluation have been undertaken by UNIPSIL and UNDP jointly.

IV. Results

The panel consists of three members with one additional secretary and two support staff. The main office was located at the National Stadium Hostel for public sittings in Freetown and conduct field trip to Kenema and Pujehun for hearings from witnesses in the field. The final report was supposed to be submitted to the President Office by 15th May 2010 but was finally submitted in July 2010.

The PBF specifically provided support to the Panel as follows based on the proposals;

- . Refurbished and equipped office space for the Chairperson of the Panel and Panel members;
- . Provided sitting allowances for the Chairperson and Panel members;
- . Provided a transport to Kenema and Pujehun
- . Hired a vehicle to transport Panel members while in Kenema and Pujehun
- . Provided DSA for the panel members while in Kenema and Pujehun
- . Provided stationary and photocopying services
- . Provided sensitization and publicity
- . Provide communication access

Since the panel's inception, it has held several public sittings in Freetown, Kenema and Pujehun (Jendema) in which testimonies were heard from a wide range of witnesses including the City Mayor, representatives of the APC and SLPP, Sierra Leone Police and bystanders. Local stakeholders, particularly in Jendema gave their full support and cooperated with the panel. In Jendema also, the panel was privy to pertinent information and suggestions which aided the direction of its operations. It further intensified its approach by interviewing additional witnesses based on this information received. General observations have credited the panel for the composure and maturity exhibited during its operations which has largely contributed to the completion of its investigations in the Provinces.

Upon completion of all field visits and public hearings in Freetown, Kenema and Pujehun by the end of 1st quarter of 2010, the panel members focused on analyzing data collected and writing the reports. In July, the Secretary to the Commission submitted the report to the Office of the President. UNIPSIL witnessed some of the sittings and marveled at the maturity displayed by the panel. The panel's expertise provoked quite pertinent responses from the witnesses and also informed on the recommendations. Panelists were committed and very thorough in order to emerge with concise recommendations.

Key partnership and inter-agency collaboration on progress analysis and strategic planning

The programme was designed by UNIPSIL and the national counterpart to implement Joint Communiqué and UNDP was appointed as the recipient of the fund and to manage the process of programme implementation. Both agencies were, therefore, expected to work closely as to communication with the partners and implementation of the programme. The achievement of this programme clearly showed the capability of effective collaboration between UNDP and UNIPSIL to implement an emergency support programme in political area. The main cause of these positive outcomes can be emphasized as the result of effective partnership between UNIPSIL's expertise in political support to the government and UNDP's technical expertise in programme implementation and management.

Implementation Constraints/Lessons Learned

The quality of work provided by the original stenographer was not commendable however the position was replaced by new personnel and the Panel expressed the satisfaction of service provided.

Despite the plan to submit the report by 15 May 2010, the commissioners could not finalize the report as the investigations took longer than envisaged, and happened to involve more witnesses than was expected. Some of the key witnesses were uncooperative and the panel had to issue subpoenas to get them to testify- this also added to the delays. Transcribing the interviews and power outages also contributed to the delays. At each stage, UNIPISL/UNDP were in touch with the team providing the necessary support when needed to monitor the progress and ensure the completion of the report without further delay.

Upon approval of programme in December 2009, it was expected to start immediate implementation from the beginning of January however UNDP faced the practical challenge to make a fund available and to make a disbursement available in the beginning of January due to the

financial system constraint at the end of year and beginning of year. One of the lessons identified, therefore, is that the timing to start programme implementation should not cross over the end and beginning of year.

V. Abbreviations and Acronyms

APC	All Peoples' Congress
IMC	Independent Media Commission
NDA	National Democratic Alliance
PMDC	Peoples' Movement for Democratic Change
PPRC	Political Parties Registration Commission
UNIPSIL	United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme