

**GUINEA-BISSAU
PEACEBUILDING FUND
PROJECT STATUS REPORT**

30 JUNE 2011

Project No & Title:	PBF/GNB/B-2 - Rehabilitation of Military Barracks				
Recipient UN Organization:	UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS)	Priority Sector:	Security Sector Reform		
National Authority:	Ministry of National Defense				
Location:	Bissau, Guinea Bissau				
Project Cost:	1,905,000				
SC Approval Date:	29/05/2008	Starting Date:	31/12/2008	Completion Date:	30/06/2011
PBF Outcome and Priority area	<p>Priority 1. Activities designed to respond to imminent threats to the peace process, support for the implementation of peace agreements and political dialogue, in particular in relation to strengthening of national institutions and processes set up under those agreements.</p> <p>Programme Result 1 (PMP): Security sector reforms and judiciary systems put in place and providing services and goods at national and local level that reinforce the Rule of Law</p> <p>Indicator 1.1 (SSR): # of PBF supported communities / districts where national armed forces and police perform their duties in conflict affected territorial areas addressing security concerns of the target populations</p>				
Project Description:	<p>The project initially foresaw the rehabilitation of 33 military barracks in order to improve the living conditions of more than 4000 military personnel, as well as create a healthy atmosphere in the barracks and thus reduce prospects for discontentment and revolt and reinforce the process of peace stabilization.</p> <p>Following the technical assessment of the military barracks conducted during the first months by the Ministry of National Defense and UNOPS technical team, it came out that the anticipated budget was unrealistic. Therefore, the project document was revised in December 2009 and 3 barracks were selected in three locations (Gabu, Quebo and Amura) for total/partial rehabilitation.</p>				
Immediate Objectives:	<p>The project document indicates the following immediate objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement in the quality of life of military personnel • Improvement in discipline among military personnel • Improved conditions for the transformation of the Armed Forces into a professional body 				
Project Status as of June, 2011					
Funds disbursed:	\$ 1,628,722.59				
Delivery rate:	85,49 %				
Outputs delivered:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total rehabilitation of Quebo and Gabu military barracks (dormitories/service areas, kitchen/dining halls, bathrooms/public toilets, garage, health service). • Materials provided for the partial rehabilitation of Amura Fortress. • Rehabilitation of wells and building of new ones in Quebo and Gabu military barracks to provide running water. 				
Achievements and challenges	<p><u>Output delivery:</u> In accordance with the amended project document in December 2009, two military barracks located in Quebo and Gabu have been totally rehabilitated while Amura fortress has been provided with building materials.</p>				

To date, the works have been completed in both barracks (Gabu and Quebo), while in Amura fortress, the works are near completion. It is worthwhile to mention that a total number of 51 buildings have been rehabilitated in the three barracks.

During the last National Steering Committee meeting held in June 15, 2011, the project has been granted a no-cost extension - amendment. The provisional reception of the works was scheduled on June 30, 2011 and stakeholders and NSC members were invited to be part of the ceremony. Due to the absence of both the Minister of National Defense and the SRSRG, the ceremony has been postponed for the end of July.

Outcome achievements:

Explain briefly (4 to 5 short statements max.)

-To what extent the output delivery - as described before – contributes to the overall outcome achievements?

The rehabilitated military barracks will improve the living conditions of the military personnel as well as create a healthy atmosphere in the barracks and thus reduce prospects for discontentment and revolt. This activity will reinforce the process of peace stabilization in Guinea Bissau.

- What has been planned, what has been actually achieved?

As per project document, the project aims at rehabilitating 33 military barracks dispersed across 11 localities. However, based on the technical assessment conducted by the Ministry of National Defense through the military engineers and UNOPS technical team, the survey results showed that the anticipated budget was unrealistic. Therefore, a reformulation of the project has been approved by the National Steering Committee in December 2009 and 3 barracks were selected in three locations (Gabu, Quebo and Amura) for total/partial rehabilitation.

The rehabilitation has been done accordingly to the reformulated project and the works are now completed in Gabu and Quebo military barracks, in full compliance with prevailing standards. Due to the absence of the Minister of National Defense in the country, the provisional reception initially scheduled for June 30, 2011 has been postponed for July 2011. In the Amura Fortress, the work is still ongoing under the technical supervision of UNOPS and will soon be concluded by the military engineers.

- What worked?

- The good quality of deliverables ;
- The performance of the local contractors ;
- The role of the project management committee to support the project's activities;
- The great impact of the self-esteem on the troops' moral.

- What did not?

- The first technical surveys (prior to project approval) to determine the costs of the project budget ;
- The complexity of the relationship with the national counterpart,
- The 15 months delay in the project implementation that are due to the following main reasons :
 - Political issues (Elections in November 2008, Assassinations of March 2009, Presidential elections in June 2009, Government reshuffles);
 - Unrealistic and unfeasible project design: disappointment among national partners and difficulties in the communication process and in the general perception and understanding of the project;
 - Slow process of public tendering;
 - High intensity of rains in the early work;
 - UNOPS capacities in Bissau: Establishment of UNOPS Offices in Bissau in terms of staffing and equipments 'purchase. UNOPS management structure is based in Dakar and has no representative on the field to deal with political issues. UNOPS is only

represented in Bissau by its technical team hired to undertake the technical activities foreseen by the project.

- The lack of understanding of UN procedures in terms of project's/funds management, bidding processes, from the national counterparts.

- *How will the challenges be addressed?*

Challenges identified during the project implementation contributed to consolidate the following lessons learned:

- Make sure that an adequate feasibility study is done for the planned activity to ascertain an adequate and realistic budget and timing.
- Set up and maintain a good channel of communication with the stakeholders.
- Reinforce the presence of the implementing agency in the country.
- Benefit from the lessons learnt to avoid some discrepancies during implementation of next phases.