



PEACEBUILDING FUND
Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility

PROJECT DOCUMENT COVER SHEET

Project Title: Strengthening national responses to the prevention and management of Sexual Gender-based Violence	Recipient UN Organization: United Nations Population Funds (UNFPA) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Project Contact: Ratidzai Ndhlovu UNFPA Representative 0023276625964 ndhlovu@unfpa.org Mahimbo Mdoe UNICEF Representative 0023276626542 mmdoe@unicef.org Mia Seppo UNDP Country Director 0023278950000 mia.seppo@undp.org	Implementing Partner(s): Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs Ministry of Health and Sanitation Ministry of internal Affairs in collaboration with the Family Support Unit (FSU) of the SLP
Project Number: <i>PBF/SLE/C-4</i>	Project Location: Selected districts

<p>Project Description:</p> <p>The objectives of this projects are:</p> <p>To strengthen national referral system for victims of SGBV through strengthening communities involvement, capacity building of institutions and strengthening data collection within and between institutions.</p> <p>To strengthen the role of the community in promoting and respecting the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls, through the involvement of community leaders, including engaging men and boys, as change agents and educators in the fight against SGBV</p> <p>To contribute to an enabling legal environment for the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls.</p> <p>To strengthen institutional capacities for prevention, investigation, referral to HIV/AIDS related services and prosecution of SGBV cases as well as integration of SGBV survivors into communities</p> <p>To mainstream HIV/AIDs awareness into all project activities.</p>	<p>Total Project Cost:</p> <p>PBF request: US\$450,000</p> <p>UNFPA/UNAIDS: US\$235,370 UNDP:172,094 UNICEF: US\$37,536 Additional funds from other sources:</p>
<p>Project Start Date and Duration:</p> <p>January 2011 – December 2012</p>	
<p>Gender Marker Score¹: The project targeted results relate completely with United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820.</p>	
<p>PBF Priority Area(s) and Outcomes:</p> <p>PBF Priority area 2.</p> <p>Promote coexistence and peaceful conflict resolution</p>	
<p>Outcome, Outputs and Key Activities:</p>	
<p>Outcome 1: Enhanced Prevention, Referral, Protection and Redress for victims/survivors of SGBV</p>	
<p><u>Outputs</u></p> <p>Output 1. 1: Strengthened response at community and national level for enhanced prevention, prosecution, psycho-social and medical support to victims and survivors of SGBV</p> <p><u>Key Activities:</u></p> <p>1.1 Strengthen referral systems by extending the scope of the National referral protocol for child victims of abuse</p>	

¹ The PBSO monitors the inclusion of women and girls in all PBF projects in line with:

- SC Resolution 1325 (inclusion of women in prevention and resolution of conflict and in peace building)
- SC Resolution 1612 (protection of children affected by armed conflict);
- SC Resolution 1820 (prevention of sexual violence and women in situations of armed conflict); and
- SC Resolution 1888 (re-enforcing Resolution 1820)
- SC Resolution 1889 (re-enforcing Resolution 1325)

PBSO measures inclusion of women and girls at project planning stage based on intended results and allocated budgets. PBSO also monitors and documents the progress and results of these projects separately to inform the SC and UN system.

to include adult victims, and including community based systems for improved access to services e.g. free medical care (VCT/ PEP and STIs screening and treatment), psychosocial and legal support.

1.2 Support the provision of special training to Social Workers, Health workers and Community-based Organizations (CBOs) in SGBV response management including psycho-social support.

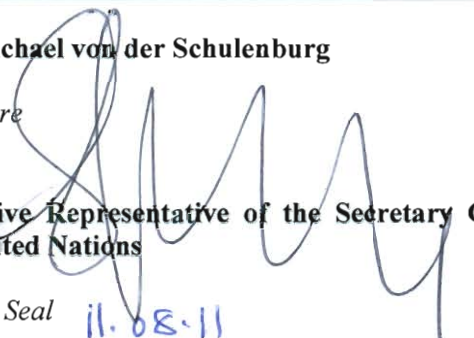
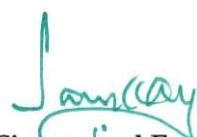


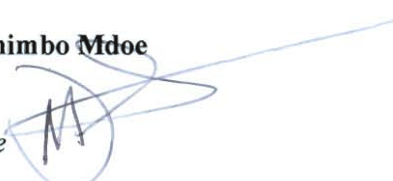

1.3 Support the provision of specialized training of medical doctors, FSUs and selected health workers in SGBV screening, PEP kits for HIV/AIDs treatment and presentation of timely reports to facilitate convictions.

1.4 Promote victim/survivor witness support initiatives managed by CSOs and the existing chieftdom community advocacy groups to enhance SGBV prosecution, including legal aid for victims/survivors.

1.5 Provide learning programs targeting judges, magistrates, Justices of Peace, police prosecutors on management of SGBV related matters.

1.6 Support victim rehabilitation programs through training in basic livelihood skills, and provision of start-up kits and micro-finance and empowerment to regain self esteem.

Co-chairs of the DEPAC

<p>Mr. Michael von der Schulenburg <i>Signature</i>  Executive Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations <i>Date & Seal</i> 11.08.11</p>	<p>Honorable Dr. Samura Kamara <i>Signature</i>  Minister of Finance and Economic Development <i>Date & Seal</i> 11/08/11</p>
<p>Mr. Vijay Pillai <i>Signature</i>  Country Manager of the World bank <i>Date & Seal</i> 08/04/11</p>	
<p>Recipient UN Organization(s)</p>	<p>National Implementing Partner(s)</p>
<p>Ms. Ratidzai Ndhlovu <i>Signature</i>  UNFPA PP <i>Date & Seal</i></p> <p>Mr. Mahimbo Mdoe <i>Signature</i>  UNICEF <i>Date & Seal</i> 4/8/2011</p> <p>Ms. Mia Seppo <i>Signature</i>  UNDP <i>Date & Seal</i> 4/8/2011</p>	<p>Replace with: <i>Name of Head of Partner</i> <i>Signature</i> <i>Name of Institution</i> <i>Date & Seal</i></p>

COMPONENT 1: Situation analysis

Globally, four World Conferences on women (Mexico 1975; Copenhagen 1980; Nairobi 1985 and Beijing 1995) have acknowledged that over the years women had been marginalised and denied the enjoyment of their basic human rights. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and 1820 on women peace and security and on sexual and gender based violence also emphasised the importance of the protection, promotion and participation of women in post-conflict states as a prerequisite to attaining sustainable peace.

Findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) that was set up by the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) at the end of the war in 2002 revealed that women and girls were subjected to systematic abuse during the war. The low status of women within the home and community has consequently affected women's personal security and participation in viable and sustainable economic activities. The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper II "Agenda for Change" recognises SGBV, limited access to justice as well as social and economic disempowerment as some of the constraints to women's development, poverty reduction and peace building. It is against this background that this program aims to support the efforts of the Government to address SGBV issues through the promotion of positive behavioural change, systematic institutional capacity building, requisite legal reforms, policy development, enhanced collective responsibility at community level as contributions towards entrenching sustainable peace and human security in Sierra Leone.

The connection between violence against women and HIV must be understood in the context of discrimination resulting from gender inequality, including women's lack of adequate access to information, education, and health services. HIV infection as relevant to Sexual & Gender Based Violence (SGBV) is primarily acquired through sexual relations, which themselves are greatly influenced by socio-cultural factors, underlying which are gender power imbalances.

Evidence shows that in Sierra Leone, women living with HIV who disclose their HIV status or even admits to having sought HIV testing, are particularly vulnerable to stigma and discrimination, a situation that often leads to physical violence. The Network of HIV Positives in Sierra Leone (NETHIPS), an umbrella body representing 36 PLHIV support groups nationwide (over 6,000 members), has within its current incidence reports a number of cases of women who, upon disclosing their HIV status, were beaten by their husbands and expelled from their homes.

During Sierra Leone's civil war the physical trauma associated with sexual violence caused serious reproductive health problems for many women, including sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS²

The number of cases of HIV transmission resulting from SGBV in today's society remains unclear as disaggregated data along such lines is not yet fully available. While efforts have been made to scale up HIV related services to victims of SGBV with reference to HIV Post Exposure

² HRW (2003): 50-1, United Nations Economic and Social Council (2002) *Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, submitted in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/49, Addendum Mission to Sierra Leone (21-29 August 2001)*

Prophylaxis (PEP) and Voluntary Counselling and Confidential HIV Testing (VCCT), both areas require considerable strengthening if they are to be part of an effective holistic response to SGBV in Sierra Leone.

COMPONENT 2: Project Justification

Incidents of Gender-based Violence and specifically SGBV are increasingly being reported in Sierra Leone. This is evidenced by the findings of the 2008 National Research on GBV in Sierra Leone. The research revealed that approximately two-third of males interviewed did not agree that sexual assault on women is gender-based violence; they also assert that sexual violence is not an abuse. These attitudes and perceptions may provide an indication as to why rape and unlawful carnal knowledge of young girls is still so prevalent in the local communities. Other SGBV realities which are deeply entrenched in local traditions such as FGC/M and early/forced marriages continue to exist in the communities. It is critical that men and boys are sensitized in gender equality, SGBV, HIV Prevention etc so that they appreciate the positive role that women can play in the peace-building and recovery process. These men and boys can then become change agents in protecting the rights of women and girls and sustaining peace in Sierra Leone.

The Government of Sierra Leone, recognizing the need to eliminate all violation of the rights of women and children, enacted several Gender Justice Acts in 2007 among which are the Domestic Violence, and Child Rights Acts both of which are explicit on the prevention of GBV. However, there is inadequate integrated planning and budgeting for gender issues in national development plans. Major challenges also result from socio-cultural and traditional beliefs and practices in a patriarchal society in which gender biases are intricately embedded hence fuelling the continuation of harmful traditional practices such as FGC/M on children even in the face of widespread advocacy and awareness of the consequences of such practices. Conviction rates for SGBV related crimes remain low³ due to weak technical and logistical capacity of law enforcement agents to prosecute SGBV cases coupled with weak cooperation and coordination between the relevant actors (the police, prosecutors, judges, lawyers, prisons authorities, traditional courts, health care providers and NGOs) that should serve to promote access to justice for victims of SGBV.

The National Action on UNSCR1325 is a comprehensive strategy on combating SGBV in Sierra Leone. However, there is little attempt to repeal laws that overtly discriminate against women and the situation is worsened by the operation of a dual legal system that combines customary and statutory laws. In addition, there is inadequate information/awareness and lack of interest in gender issues among women at the lower levels of society, the majority of whom are illiterate and most marginalized⁴, hence the need for raising awareness and building the capacity among women's groups and all levels of community leadership.

The absence of coordinated data collection and management systems makes it impossible to conduct a proper gender analysis of policies and programmes or their impact. There is also very low level of awareness on rights by rural communities, lack of a community initiative/networks

³ Statistics released by the FSU (with support from UNFPA) on offences against women and children reported to the unit since inception till May 2009³ indicate that of 9,672 cases of domestic violence reported to the unit there have only been 23 convictions while of 7,597 cases of sexual abuse reported to the unit within the period there were 40 convictions. In 2008 and 2009 there were no convictions recorded by the FSU for these offences.

⁴ National Gender Strategic Plan 2010-2013

for the prevention of SGBV and the protection of survivors of SGBV, and lack of bye-laws at the community level for the implementation of the new gender Acts.

The current project will work with the relevant Ministries, Department and Agencies, justice health sector institutions and service providers including CSOs to strengthen their capacity to articulate much more professionalised, integrated and multi-sectoral response to SGBV. It will also provide a new source of empowerment to the already influential men and women community leaders, the young unemployed girls as well as the victims/survivors of SGBV, giving them a new impetus and motivation to take up new roles as advocates for the elimination of SGBV.

COMPONENT 3: Logical Framework (including implementation strategy)

Part 1 (Strategic Level):

Objectives	Measurable indicators/Targets	Means of verification	Important assumptions
PBF Priority 2. Promote coexistence and peaceful conflict resolution	Percentage increase/decrease ⁵ reported cases of SGBV in 2012 as against baseline.	Reports, testimonies, survey research reports, court records.	Huge and sustainable investment in the proposed interventions would contribute to the elimination of SGBV and child FGC/M in Sierra Leone
PBF Outcome(s)			
Outcome 1: Enhanced Prevention, Referral, Protection and Redress for victims/survivors of SGBV	Percentage increase in convictions for SGBV related crimes Number of victims being provided services over the period of one year Number and types of knowledge and technical capacity building programmes provided to the peer educators, paralegals etc. Numbers of victims receiving rehabilitation support.	Policies, laws, Reports, Survey	Adequate resources and motivation of the personnel to ensure sustainability and continuity of good service delivery to the communities Government's commitment in protecting and promoting rights Additional funding for expansion

⁵ The premise here is that decreased reporting is not evidence that the problem is reducing; it may be that systems and institutions are working better hence more victims are confident to come forward.

Part 2 (Implementation Level):

PBF Outcome:

Main Activities	Inputs	Rough Cost Estimate (optional)	Person(s) responsible for mobilizing inputs
Outcome 1: Enhanced Prevention, Referrals, Protection and Redress for victims/survivors of SGBV			
Provide special training to Social Workers, & Community based Organizations (CBOs) in trauma counseling for SGBV management. (Participating agencies: UNFPA)	Hall, Refreshment, Honoraria, DSAs, Transport refunds, media coverage	29,000	Upholding Clients confidentiality and retention of trained personnel
Support the provision of specialized training of medical doctors, FSUs and selected health workers in SGBV screening, PEP kits for HIV/AIDs, treatment and presentation of timely reports as well as the use of forensic services. (Participating agencies: UNFPA, UNDP & UNAIDS)	Hall, Refreshment, Honoraria, DSAs, Transport refunds, media coverage	90,000	Commitment of trained personnel
Strengthen referral systems by extending the scope of the National referral protocol for child victims of abuse to include adult victims, including community based systems for improved access to services e.g. free medical care (VCT/ PEP and STIs screening and treatment), psychosocial and legal support. (Participating agencies: UNICEF & UNAIDS)	Advocacy, sensitizations, meetings	70,000	Consistent availability of medical services to support SGBV survivors
Promote victim/survivor witness support initiatives managed by Community Advocacy Groups and CSOs to enhance SGBV prosecution. (Participating agencies: UNFPA & UNDP)	Contracts to CSOs	112,000	CSOs and community advocacy groups available and able to provide services especially at the remotest locations.
Provide learning programs targeting judges, magistrates, Justices of Peace, police prosecutors, on management of SGBV related matters (Participating agencies: UNDP)	trainings, meetings, dialogues	25,000	Staff motivated enough to carry out their function professionally
Support victim rehabilitation programs including training in basic livelihoods skills and empowering them as advocates for SGBV elimination. (Participating agencies: UNDP & UNFPA)	Training, start-up kits, meetings	89,000	National commitment and additional resources to ensure sustainability and expansion.

COMPONENT 4: Overall Budget (Agency-specific budgets attached)

PBF PROJECT BUDGET	
CATEGORIES	AMOUNT
1. Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport	50,000
2. Personnel (staff, consultants and travel)	50,000
3. Training of counterparts	180,000
4. Contracts	110,000
5. Other direct costs **	30,000
Sub-Total Project Costs	420,000
Indirect Support Costs***	30,000
TOTAL	450,000

* See the UNDG Harmonized reporting to Donors for Joint Programmes approved in 2006 and available on <http://www.undg.org/docs/9442/Explanatory-Note---Annex-D.doc>.

** Agency-incurred direct project costs will be charged to this budget line, according to the Agency's regulations, rules and procedures.

***A percentage rate shall be applied in line with the rules and regulations of the recipient and implementing agencies.

COMPONENT 5: Management Arrangements

5.1 Implementation and Supervision Arrangements

This national multi-sectoral program will be coordinated by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and implemented by the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA, Ministry of Health and Sanitation, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs in collaboration with the Family Support Unit (FSU) of the Sierra Leone Police.

UNFPA will be the overall coordinating agency for the project and will work in collaboration with UNAIDS, UN Women, UNICEF and UNDP to support project coordination. Whilst funds for UNAIDS are received by, managed and reported on by UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP respectively will receive direct disbursements in accordance with the attached project budgets. UNICEF and UNDP will be fully responsible for implementation and monitoring as well as financial and narrative reporting on their respective activities under the project. UN Women will ensure that UN support to this project falls within the framework of the UN Theme Group on Gender. UNAIDS will submit quarterly and end of year reports to UNFPA and coordinating agency, UNFPA will consolidate inputs from the UNAIDS and submit consolidated program and financial reports to the MDTF through the PBF-Support and Coordination Office as stated in the MOU. UNFPA will be responsible for timely disbursements of funds for activities supported by UNAIDS, which, in turn, will be responsible for timely submission of implementing partners work plans, timely implementation of project activities as well as timely submission of program and financial reports. UNICEF and UNDP will submit program and financial reports of their

respective program interventions to the MDTF through the PBF-Support and Coordination Office as stated in the MOU. The 7% indirect costs will be applicable to UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP respectively. There will be no indirect costs for the other participating UN agencies. UNFPA, UNDP and UNICEF will organise and coordinate their respective monitoring visits and quarterly technical review meetings to ensure that project activities are in line with the agreed work plan and are on course towards achieving desired tangible results. The project will benefit from the technical expertise and comparative advantage from all the participating agencies. Collaborative interventions will help to avoid duplication of activities and will enable the participating agencies to use limited resources for greater impact.

A Technical Committee (TC) of partners, including the implementing line ministries, and the participating UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UN Women and UNFPA) will provide overall oversight for the implementation of the project. This committee will develop terms of reference for consultants and other service providers for the program. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development will chair the TC and UNFPA will co-chair. The TC will also provide overall guidance for monitoring for results and will be tasked with critical advocacy activities linked to the project at stakeholders' level. The TC will meet twice a year to discuss implementation of project activities, lessons learnt, and challenges and to review implementation plans. Participating UN agencies will ensure that UN procedures and the PBF guidelines for disbursement, procurement and reporting are strictly adhered to. Participating UN agencies will support the implementing Ministries to mobilize additional resources from donors and other partners. UN agencies as members of the TC will ensure efficient management of resources for the implementation of the project, including financial management, including disbursement of resources and other forms of support to partner organizations to implement activities based on agreed work plans and monitoring tools, including quality reporting on both narrative and finances. To facilitate this process, the coordinating Ministry, and the participating UN agencies will sign cooperation agreements with each of the selected implementing organizations.

UN agencies will make advances to implementing partners or make direct payment depending on the program and financial management capacity of the implementing partner. Sub grantees/partners will be selected or approved by the technical committee with the co-chairs as signatories to the cooperation agreement between the Ministry/implementing partner and the sub-grantee.

5.2 Specific delivery mechanism chosen:

The implementing Ministries and the UN family working on gender related activities have planned for the implementation of various activities in support of prompting women's empowerment, participation, protection and security. The actions planned are meant to lay the foundation for the implementation of the various plans. The actions would also focus on ensuring the availability of gender disaggregated data that shall be used in producing, monitoring, reporting and tracking SGBV. Other foundation actions shall include the removal of discriminatory laws, introduction of by-laws in communities the training of community specific groups and providing them with livelihood support.

UNFPA will provide direction for data collection. These actions are meant to ensure that strategic programmatic activities have an enabling environment with greater potential for success and impact. Data, improved legislation and policy including at the community level shall draw

inspiration for implementation of the PRSP II (Agenda for Change), UN Joint Vision, National Gender Strategic Plan and the Sierra Leone National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and 1820.

Gap filling actions such as the creation of GBV and anti FGC/M committees and at the district and chiefdom levels shall complete the referral network chain in those areas where the PBF had provided initial support in raising awareness and creating/training women's groups to take action against SGBV and FGC/M issues, especially at regional level. The trained women's groups will be mentored and linked both horizontally and vertically with the whole referral system so that community women take-up issues and follow-up by linking with other actors along the network.

The PBF through the judiciary had supported the construction of safe houses albeit in two regions and even those constructed are without fence or furniture, equipment and personnel. This project shall compliment these efforts by providing adequate furniture, equipment and personnel and training in effective use of safe homes. These infrastructural and capacity building developments will be outsourced and shall target filling gaps and adding value to previous on-going PBF support. The Community Empowerment Program to reduce GBV and Maternal Health Complications saw through comprehensive trainings of TBAs and Traditional and Religious Leaders, and established more than 60 community advocacy and mobilization groups that are currently engaged in outreach programs to discuss the prevention and management of SGBV and Reproductive health, including male and female condom promotion.

5.3 Sustainability Arrangements:

Charged with the on-going responsibility of delivering the outcomes aforementioned, management arrangements and policies within the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs have been revised for equipment use. The Ministry as part of its budget review has engaged the Ministry of Finance for adequate budget provision to meet running costs and maintenance of vehicles and equipment. It is hoped that the Gender Ministry's allocation will move above the 3% allocation for 2011. The capacity building training provided by the technical consultants shall be multiplied by fire branded trainers within the Ministry. Partnerships shall also be increasingly created with other donors and like minded agencies for further support in filling of remaining gaps. Collaboration between the different Ministries and between Ministries and civil society and communities will enhance sustainability.

The UN Family and other partners have supported the MSWGCA to develop a National Gender Strategic plan and Sierra Leone National Action Plan with Monitoring and reporting indicators on UN Security Council 1325 and 1820. These plans which will have 3 year life cycle will effectively help the MSWGCA understand and position itself for delivery on its role to promote gender equality and women's rights issues in Sierra Leone. It shall help scale -up on-going activities and add value to those that face programmatic challenges. Both strategies will build on the foundations and structures laid down by this project and will ensure that these are used in future to protect women's rights and consolidate women's peace and security in Sierra Leone.

The involvement of traditional leaders and their communities at Chiefdom level will enhance community ownership and responsibility and subsequent sustainability of the project. In addition, while specific and direct results from the PBF will be reported on, this project will not be treated as a completely separate, parallel or stand-alone project. Instead it will be incorporated into the UN-supported country programs and work plans in order to enhance sustainability of project results. Effort will be made to transfer skills to national counterparts through training and

joint results-based monitoring. This will help to build national capacity and enhance project sustainability.

5.4 National Authority Counterpart and extent of Cooperation:

Close collaboration will be established with the programme primary stakeholders and other actors in the Human Rights Commission, Parliament, Justice Sector, WANMAR 1325 and 1820, Women in Crisis Movement, LAYWERS, IRC and the UN and the national women's networks. The partnership strategy involves four main categories:

Government Ministries and Institutions: The Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health and Sanitation and the Ministry of Justice will provide the legal and policy framework within which the activities are defined. The Ministries will partner with other relevant government ministries and institutions and collaborate with international agencies such as the United Nations, Irish Aid and other international organizations who have been providing technical and financial support to the Ministry in the areas of child protection and gender mainstreaming.

International Agencies: DFID, EC, CORDAID and Irish Aid have been the traditional partners of the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs, especially in providing technical support for policies and strategic interventions. UNIPSIL will provide policy guidance and technical support as needed.

Civil Society Organizations and Community Advocacy Groups: This category of partners is particularly important in implementing training and sensitization activities. The Sierra Leone Women's Forum, which is an umbrella organization for women NGOs, the Human Rights Commission and, the national committee on Gender Based Violence and the 60 already established chiefdom community advocacy groups will be expected to play a key role in monitoring the implementation of the project.

5.5 Overall Time frame

The project shall be implemented within two years between January 2011 and December 2012.

COMPONENT 6: Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring:

Monitoring shall be done at various levels and in various forms. Activity level monitoring on a daily basis shall be the responsibility of the Ministries in collaboration with UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, UNAIDS and UN Women, Civil Society and relevant beneficiaries/stakeholders. Together, they shall ensure efficacy in quality of delivered materials, efficiency in their costs and timelines of delivery. This monitoring shall be supported by joint monitoring visit reports and relevant documentation for example quarterly reports. Monthly monitoring shall be further supported by the PBF Technical Secretariat for informing of the PBF Steering and Technical Committee, and for triangulating monitoring information fed into its system by the Ministries.

The implementing partners shall in this direction submit quarterly substantive and financial reports as well as monitoring reports to the participating UN agencies who will in turn submit to UNFPA, UNDP and UNICEF respectively for consolidation and submission to the MDTF through the Strategic Planning Unit in UNIPSIL.

Evaluation:

Evaluations shall be post implementation. These shall jointly be undertaken by the Ministries, UNDP/PBF Secretariat, and the Steering Committee, Donors, Women's groups, donors and other stakeholders including civil society organisations. It shall take the forms of administered questionnaires and FG interviews at the end of implementation. These shall go to indicate immediate effects of the intervention on the lives of the targeted beneficiaries. These shall inform the final report.

COMPONENT 7: Assumptions and Risks

This project is developed on the main assumption that the peace situation in Sierra Leone continues to be threatened by some factors. It is also premised on the assumption that the PBF's emphasis on prevention of Gender-based violence, would result in commitment of funds to women's identified needs. The current commitment of the government to gender equality and human rights as evidenced in all major development strategies such as the PRSP, the MDGs, and the PBF is also assumed to result in increased commitment and resources to support women's empowerment and protection of women's and children's human rights. At the community level, it is assumed that communities will be willing to overcome cultural barriers and that SGBV and anti FGC/M committees shall be in a position to sustain action on SGBV and FGC/M issues.

On the other hand there is a risk that policy on gender equality may not be followed by actual commitments in resources and implementation of programmes aimed at achieving parity and promoting human rights and therefore adequate risk mitigation strategies have to be agreed upon by all partners at the project inception phase. The absence of adequate funding for the MSWGCA and the other Ministries will affect the sustainability of the project since the current funding is only for one year which does not provide enough time for government to institutionalize it in its budget.