

Sierra Leone MDTF

Fund Signature Page / Cover Sheet

(Note: this page is attached to the programme¹ document)

Participating UN Organisation(s): UN WOMEN	Priority Area: JV: 19 Youth Development and Employment AFC Chapter –Seven, Youth Employment and Empowerment
Programme Manager of Participating UN Organization Name: Melrose Kargbo Address: 29 Wilkinson Road Telephone: +22 78402300 E-mail: Melrose.kargbo@unwomen.org	Implementing Partner(s): Name: UNWOMEN Address: 29 Wilkinson Road Telephone: 078402300 E-mail:
Joint Vision Programme Number: 19	Project Duration: 12 months Estimated Start-Up Date: Jan. 2012
Project Title: Female Youths Economic Empowerment Project	Project Location: Rural Areas
Project Description: UN Women will work with other UN agencies to achieve youth empowerment with a particular focus on female youths. It is often assumed that young women will automatically benefit from new infrastructure without their active involvement and participation. The project aims at encouraging young women to actively participate in development initiatives that impact on their lives in their communities. At the start of the project, research will be carried out to determine the level of awareness on young women’s empowerment vis-a-vis their skills and employment status. Young women will then be equipped with knowledge of small scale business techniques after which they would be provided with startup kits to set up their own business or be place into jobs.	Total Project Cost: SL- MDTF: US\$ 162,103 Government Input: US\$ 0 Other: US\$ 0 GRAND TOTAL: US\$ 162,103
Development Goal and Key Outcomes: Development Goal: To promote equal opportunities for young women as participants of development. Key Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To equip young women with knowledge and skills that will empower them. • To ensure young women’s participation in the development of their communities 	

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

Deliverables:

- Baseline research on young women's skills and employment status in the selected districts
- Gender sensitization of 120 youths in the selected districts
- 75 young women trained in small scale business in the selected districts
- Provision of 75 start up kits for young women involved in small scale business in the selected districts

	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Name/Title</i>
UN Women		15/11/2011	Josephine Odera (Dr) Regional Director West Africa
DEPAC Co-Chair		24/11/11	Honorable Dr. Samura Kamara Minister of Finance and Economic Development
DEPAC Co-Chair		Nov 29, '11	Mr. Vijay Pillai Country Manager World Bank
DEPAC Co-Chair		24/11/11	Mr. Michael von der Schulenburg Executive Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations

Project Document

1. Executive Summary:

Though significant strides have been made through the combine effort of the Government and its Development partners in the reconstruction of post war Sierra Leone, marginalization of rural communities remains the key challenge to achieving sustainable peace and development. The youth are too often detached from the mainstream national economy and lack basic necessary services and infrastructures to be part of and promote economic development even though they consist of 33% of the total population, with 60% of them being unemployed.

Through Programme 19, the UN aims to build the capacity of the National Youth Commission to deal with youth employment and empowerment schemes. The UN will also be involved in youth focusing on income generating and decent work. The UN will also initiate public work schemes that provide the transitions from vocational training and university studies to work, through placements, internships and apprenticeships in the public and private sectors as well as the UN and NGOs.

The project activities will demonstrate the UN working together as a common goal – UN Women will work closely with ILO and UNIDO ensuring that young women are not only aware of the on going infrastructure projects but also participate in decision making and project implementation at all levels. UNWOMEN will also coordinate closely with UN AIDS and UNFPA in the areas of Sexual Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS with a special emphasis on how these issues affect young women. It is often assumed that young women will automatically benefit from new infrastructure without their active involvement and participation. The project aims at encouraging young women to actively participate in development initiatives that impact on their lives in their communities.

Under the project UNWOMEN will therefore seek to provide financial and technical support to young women in rural area to empower them, raise their awareness on the need for women's empowerment vis-a-vis their skills and employment status. Young women will then be equipped with knowledge of small scale business management, marketing and investments after which they would be provided with start-up kits to set up their own business.

2. Situation analysis:

Sierra Leone is a highly patriarchal society, where there is widespread discrimination against women, and as a result, they are heavily under-represented in the traditionally male-dominated political and socioeconomic decision-making structures of Sierra Leone. Gender inequalities are prevalent throughout society, with women being more likely to be illiterate and suffer extreme poverty, their rights are frequently violated, and they have little access to resources or opportunities. This burden has affected society as a whole, and can adversely affect the potential for sustainable peacebuilding and development by disempowering and marginalising more than half of the country's population.

About 70 per cent of the population live in poverty and young adults aged 15 to 34 are amongst the poorest of the poor. Most of these young men and women are school drop outs who earn a living from petty trading, narcotic drug peddling, prostitution and theft. Poverty and socio-cultural factors limit young women's opportunities which affect their status and participation. Only 46 per cent of young women are literate compared to 66 per cent young men.² Factors such as early marriage, high rates of teenage pregnancy and rising dropout rates have contributed to the problem.

Young women's economic empowerment, especially in rural communities is extremely low. This affects their level of participation in decision making both at local and national level. Customary

² At a Glance- Sierra Leone, Youth Literacy rates 2004-2008 , UNICEF 2009

practices in most rural communities prevent younger women from ownership of agricultural land which could be used as collateral and hence inhibits their chances of accessing credit facilities. Even though they are responsible for approximately 80 percent of food production, the agricultural sector hardly recognizes or evaluates women's contribution for inclusion in the national economy.³ They also have little or no control over the resources generated by them in their various economic pursuits.

Responses from UNWOMEN, the Government and other Development Partners

UNWOMEN provides leadership on issues of gender equality and women's human rights. It works towards increased and improved inclusion of women at all levels of development. UNWOMEN also support women's organisations and other civil society organisations that are key actors who play greater role at grass root and mutual level in terms of:

- a) advocacy for women's rights , political and economic inclusion;
- b) service provision in rural areas for GBV survivors;
- c) establishment of income generation, employment and vocational skills training
- d) opportunities for women and girls;
- e) Providing a channel for activism, civic education and capacity building of future women leaders.

UNWOMEN's key partner is the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs,(MSWGCA) the National Machinery for gender mainstreaming and the advancement of women. It prioritises the enhancing of capacities of the Ministry so as to effectively perform its functions of coordination, monitoring and evaluation of gender mainstreaming processes. UNWOMEN will also partner with the National Youth Commission to ensure that their policies and plans are implemented in the implementation of the programme.

Together with its development partner, UNWOMEN has in the recent past collaborated with the ministry to develop a number of policy documents and legislations including the initial to 5th report on the implementation of CEDAW; the three Gender Justice laws; a National Gender Strategic Plan for 2010 to 2013 and a National Action Plan on the implementation of UNSC Resolutions 1325 and 1820. UNWOMEN also supported the preparation of the 6th CEDAW report which is in the process of being finalized and has recently completed the implementation of a \$ 615, 250 USD funded project by the PBF. The project sought to contribute to the protection of women and children in a post conflict era as a key contributor to Peace Building through specific programs focusing on strengthening the existing capacities in the MSWGCA and women's groups to ensure physical safety for women and children, networking among local communities and government to prevent and protect women from SGBV and to sensitize and provide legal education on the newly legislated Gender Acts.

3. Strategies including lessons learned and the proposed project

The programme will be implemented in the rural areas in two districts namely Moyamba and Bombali. At the start of the project UNWOMEN will contract a qualified Consultant to conduct Research to assess local economic opportunities for young women in the targeted districts. Based on the findings of the report UNWOMEN will partner with CSO organisations within the District to support gender awareness raising sessions with a particular focus on young women and community participatory techniques. UNWOMEN will also provide training in small scale business techniques after which the trainees will be given start up kits to start small scale business. UNWOMEN and the implementing partner will provide follow-up support in the early days of their new business. The provision of start-up kits and support supervision helps them translate theoretical skills into practical

³ Sierra Leone National Strategic Plan, Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs, p 16

jobs and sustainable source of income. This activity will complement one of UNWOMEN's current programmes funded under the Italian Grant which also targets young women in economic empowerment.

4. Results framework

Joint Vision framework and benchmark

Impact: By end of 2012 together with Government and our international development partners will have contributed to the improved economic and social integration of the youths.

Outcomes

- To ensure young women's participation in the development of their communities
To equip young women with knowledge and skills that will empower them
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Deliverables (outputs)

- Baseline Report on young women's skills and employment status in the selected districts
- 120 youths sensitized in the selected districts
- 75 young women trained in small scale business in the selected districts
- 75 start up kits provided for young women involved in small scale business in the selected districts

Core activities:

1. Baseline research on young women involved in development interventions
2. Gender sensitisation of 120 male and female youths in two districts
3. Training of 75 young women in small scale business in two districts in two districts
4. Provision of 75 start-up kits for young women involved small scale business in two districts

5. Management and coordination arrangements

UNWOMEN will sign a Partnership Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with partners of the project. Terms and condition will cover both financial and operational arrangement as well as reporting requirements. UNWOMEN will ensure that UN procedures and guidelines for disbursement, procurement and reporting are strictly adhered to. Financial disbursement to partners will be premised on the agreed work plan, budgets and monitoring tools including quality reporting on both narrative and finances.

6. Fund management arrangements

UNWOMEN has signed the necessary MoU with the AA at the MDTFO as recipient of the grant channeled through the Sierra Leone MDTF.

7. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Project monitoring and evaluation will be done according to UNDP's M&E Framework. Monitoring will be carried out by UNWOMEN Country Office staff, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's affairs as the national machinery for women's advancement . Partners will provide both narrative and financial reports including all supporting document.

8. Legal Context or Basis of Relationship

UNWOMEN is a signatory to the Joint Vision as UN's contribution to the GOSL Agenda for Change.

9. Workplan and budget

Project Workplan

Activity	Timeframe					
	2012					
	Jan & Feb	Mar & Apr	May & Jun	Jul & Aug	Sept & Oct	Nov & Dec
Baseline research on young women involved in development interventions in Makeni and Moyamba	x					
Call for proposals for partners working on women's economic empowerment	x					
Gender sensitisation of 120 male and female youths in Makeni and Moyamba		x		X	x	
75 young women trained in small scale business in Makeni and Moyamba			X	x	x	
Provision of 75 start up kits for young women involved small scale business in Makeni and Moyamba					x	
Monitoring of implementation	x	x	X	x	x	
Reporting			X			x

Project Budget

1	Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport	50,000
2	Personnel (staff, consultants, travel and training)	11,000
3	Training of Counterparts	70,000
4	Contracts	
5	Other Direct costs	20,498.13
	Total Programme Costs	151,498.13
	Indirect Costs 7%	10,605
	Total	\$ 162,103