

Sierra Leone MDTF

Fund Signature Page / Cover Sheet




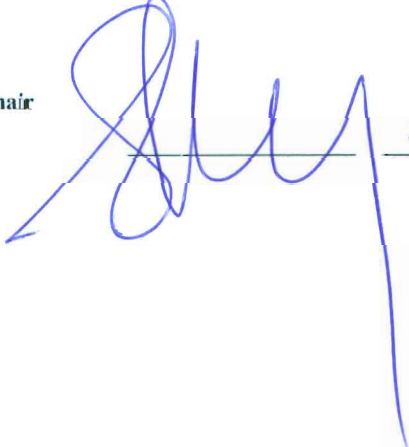
(Note: this page is attached to the programme¹ document)

Participating UN Organisation(s): UN WOMEN	Priority Area: JV: Local Governance and Decentralisation AFC: Chapter 8 Local Governance and Decentralisation
Programme Manager of Participating UN Organization Name: Melrose Kargbo Address: 29 Wilkinson Road Telephone: +22 76 311222 E-mail: Melrose.Kargbo @unwomen.org	Implementing Partner(s): Name: Council of Women Councillors & NGOs Address: Telephone: E-mail:
Joint Vision Programme Number: 16	Project Duration: 12 months Estimated Start-Up Date: February 2011
Project Title: Supporting gender equality and equity in the local governance structure	Project Location: Rural Areas
Project Description: UN Women will work with other UN agencies to strengthen local councils with a special focus on empowerment of female councillors and accountability of local government towards gender equality goals. The project will focus on local government planning and budgeting using a ‘gender lens’ including sex disaggregated targets and bench marks and measures that support women’s empowerment. The project will also equip females that are aspiring for local council positions with knowledge and the right skills to prepare them for the upcoming elections in 2012 and enhance their capacity to engage and create greater impact in their communities..	Total Project Cost: SL- MDTF: US\$ 110,250 Government Input: US\$ 0 Other: US\$ 0 GRAND TOTAL: US\$ 110,250
Development Goal and Key Outcomes: Development Goal: To achieve gender responsive local development that will improve women’s representation, participation and equal access to resources and services. Key Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A gender responsive local governance structure with gender responsive plans and budgets. • Increased number of female representation and participation at all local governance structures. 	

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

Deliverables:

- Strengthen local councils to have gender responsive plans and budgets in 4 local councils
- Capacity building of female aspirants /Counselors to effectively engage with their communities in 4 Districts

	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Name/Title</i>
UN WOMEN		10 Jan 2012	Dr. Josephine Odera Regional Director West Africa
DEFAC Co-Chair		24/1/12	Honorable Dr. Sawura Kamara Minister of Finance and Economic Development
DEFAC Co-Chair		Jan 19, 2012	Mr. Vijay Pillai Country Manager World Bank
DEFAC Co-Chair		24/01/2012	Mr. Michael von der Schulenburg Executive Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations

Project Document

Executive Summary

Though significant strides have been made through the combine effort of the Government and its international partners in the reconstruction of post war Sierra Leone, marginalization of women in decision making positions remains a key challenge to achieving sustainable peace and development. Local Councils are too often detached from the mainstream national economy and lack basic necessary services and infrastructures to be part of and promote economic development. Furthermore, they are often excluded from decision-making in the regional capital towns and at the national level in Freetown.

Through programme 16, the UN aims to:

1. Strengthened the capacity of the MLG&RD to provide strategic leadership in the decentralization process;
2. Strengthened capacity at the local government level in planning and financial management to stimulate local economic development (LED) through local government initiatives and service delivery
3. Enhanced capacity for inclusive local participatory development planning processes in at the community level for improved local level pro-poor economic development and service delivery

UNWOMEN will work with other UN agencies to strengthen local councils with a specific focus on empowerment of female councilors and women who aspire to stand for positions within the Council. Support will also be given to ensure accountability of local councils towards gender equality goals.

Under the project UNWOMEN will therefore seek to provide financial and technical support to four (4) Local Councils to produce gender responsive plans and budgets, provide s, support female councillors to effectively engage with their communities, Support female aspirants in 6 districts across the country to attend leadership skill training.

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 peace building and development by disempowering and marginalizing more than half of the country's population.

Women in Sierra Leone constitute about 51 percent of the total population and most of them live in the rural areas.¹ They constitute the bulk of the rural labour force, often as informal agricultural workers or petty traders while at the same time engaged in the management of the family. There is wide disparity and inequality between men and women in the economic, socio-political and cultural aspects of development. Some of the underlying reasons for this are certain traditional beliefs, values and practices that have over the years promoted subservience and inferior role-play.

The country is far from reaching the Beijing Platform for Action recommendation of 30% of women's representation in politics. At the local government level, 18.9% of women won seats as Councillors in 2008², as against 10.9% of women in 2004³ Local Council elections. However, the appointment of women to ministerial positions reduced; the number of female Cabinet Ministers declined from 14.3% in 2002 to 10.0% in 2009 and 4.76% in 2010. As for Deputy Ministers, the figures for 2002 and 2009 are 30% and 13%, respectively. At the legislative level, there are 13.7% female Parliamentarians out of 124 Parliamentarians. As seen by the statistics, women's participation in politics especially in the rural communities is extremely low. This affects their levels of participation in decision making both at local and national levels.

At the 2011 IWD celebrations Sierra Leone's President, Ernest Bai Koroma, made a policy statement to ensure that a private members bill is tabled before parliament to have 30 percent female representation in all levels of government in light of the forth coming elections in 2012. Various CSOs have been campaigning for the inclusion of at least 30 percent female representation in decision making positions during the next elections. Currently the Gender Equality Bill is in draft awaiting approval from Parliament. It is important that women are ready to take positions to make the call for a 30% quota a reality.

At the local level, the decentralization process which is set up to address the inadequate space for citizen participation, women continue to fight stiff competition for councillorship, the governing class of local government. There are women in the Local Councils but men continue to dominate the space where critical decisions are made on development at local government levels. ⁴ Local Councils are accorded wide ranging powers by the Local Government Act 2004 within their designated area. They have the overall responsibility to promote development of the locality and the welfare of men and women in the locality. The Local Council is also responsible for the overall development off the district and is required to formulate and implement short term development plans and budget but these are subject to the approval of central government. A major objective of establishing local government is to deliver services to people in their communities – young and old, men and women, boys and girls physically challenged, literate and illiterate. Delivering equitable development means planning and working with people to know their problems, their needs and bringing community ownership of local development plans and budgeting.

Responses from UN Women, the Government and other Development Partners

UN Women 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. UN Women also support women's organizations and other civil society organizations that are key actors who play greater role at grass root and mutual level in terms of:

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

UN Women'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 prioritizes enhancing the capacities of the Ministry to effectively perform its functions of coordination, monitoring and evaluation of gender mainstreaming processes.

Together with its development partner, UN Women's has in the recent past collaborated with the MSWGCA to develop a number of policy documents and legislations including the initial to 5th report on the implementation of CEDAW; the three gender related justice laws; a National Gender Strategic Plan for 2010 to 2013 and a National Action Plan on the implementation of UN Resolutions 1325 and 1820. UN Women's also supported the preparation of the 6th CEDAW report which has been finalized and submitted to CEDAW committee in New York. UN Women together with the MSWGCA 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 legislated gender related laws. UN Women is playing a key role working with the CSO's, female parliamentarians, gender activists and the Ministry of Social Welfare gender and Children's Affairs in advocating for the passing of the bill into law for the Minimum 30% female representation in decision making at all levels.

Strategies including lessons learned and the proposed programme

The programme will be implemented in six districts. UN WOMEN will partner specifically with the Council of women Councilors and potential female local council aspirants. The former will be trained to advocate with the members of the local council to produce gender responsive plans and budget in the targeted areas. Potential female aspirants will be trained to stand for positions within the local council in accordance with the Minimum 30% female representation policy. This will involve the hiring of qualified training consultants to carry out the training of target beneficiaries. The female councilors and aspirants will also be trained on how to effectively engage with their community. This activity will complement one of UN Women's initiative formerly implemented under Program 18 of the UNJV.

Results framework

Joint Vision framework and benchmark

As part of the Joint Vision Programme 16, the proposed project aims to contribute to UN Joint Vision broader effort to strengthen the capacity at the local government level in planning and financial management to stimulate local economic development (LED through local government initiatives and service delivery and enhanced capacity for inclusive local participatory development planning processes at the community level for improved local level pro-poor economic development and service delivery.

Outcomes

- A gender responsive local governance structure with gender responsive plans and budgets;
- Increased number of female representation and participation at all governance structures.

Deliverables (outputs)

- Four local council plans and budget are gender mainstreamed.

Buying of office equipments for the Council of Female Councilors office
 Female councilors are trained in leadership skills

Core activities:

1. Council planning meetings in (4) Local Councils to produce gender responsive plans and budgets;
2. Institutional support to Council of Female Counsellors.
3. Support to female aspirants in 6 districts across the country to attend leadership skills training
4. Monitoring of the implementation process

Management and coordination arrangements

UN WOMEN will sign a Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with project partners. Terms and condition will cover both financial and operational arrangement as well as reporting requirements. UN WOMEN 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.

Fund management arrangements

UN WOMEN will sign the necessary MOU with the AA at the MDTFO as recipient of the grant channeled through the Sierra Leone MDTF.

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Project monitoring and evaluation will be done according to Gender technical Team Results Framework. Monitoring will be carried out by UN WOMEN Country Office staff, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Local Government (gender desk), the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s affairs as the national machinery for women’s advancement. The Partners will provide both narrative and financial reports including all supporting document UN WOMEN. UN WOMEN will report to the lead agency and SPU.

Legal Context or Basis of Relationship

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

Work plans and budgets

Activity	Timeframe					
	2012					
	Jan & Feb	Mar & Apr	May & Jun	Jul & Aug	Sept & Oct	Nov & Dec

Call for proposals for partners working on women's political participation	X					
Training for Local Councils to produce gender responsive plans and budgets		X	X	X		
Institutional support provided to Council of Female Counsellors		X	X			
Training for potential female aspirants in 4 districts across the country on leadership skills			X	X	X	
Monitoring of the implementation process	X	X	X	X	X	X

UNDG standard Budget

PROJECT BUDGET WITH UNDG BUDGET CATEGORIES (USD)	
CATEGORIES	TOTAL
1. Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport	30,000
2. Personnel (staff, consultants and travel)	17,533
3. Training of counterparts	50,000
4. Contracts	0
5. Other direct costs	5,504
Sub-Total Project Costs	103,037
Indirect Support Costs*	7213
TOTAL	110,250

**To be calculated as 7% of sub-total project costs*