

Sierra Leone MDTF

Fund Signature Page

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

<p>Participating UN Organisation(s): UNICEF</p>	<p>Priority Area: <u>IV:</u> -Consolidation of Peace and stability -Integration of rural areas into the national economy <u>AFC Chapter</u> Chapter 2: - Preconditions for Growth, Good governance, Peace and Stability, Justice and Human Rights</p>
<p>Programme Manager of Participating UN Organization</p> <p>Name: Maud Droogleever Fortuyn Address: UNICEF, Sierra Leone Telephone: +232 76 912 744 E-mail: mdfortuyn@unicef.org</p>	<p>Implementing Partner(s):</p> <p>Name: Decentralization Secretariat and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs</p>
<p>Joint Vision Programme Number: 16</p>	<p>Project Duration: 1 year</p> <p>Estimated Start-Up Date: As soon as funds are available</p>
<p>Project Title: Local Governance and Decentralization</p>	<p>Project Location: Country-wide</p>
<p>Project Description: This project is within the context of the decentralization programme and will focus on strengthening the capacity of the District Councils to deliver on their responsibilities under the Child Rights Act.</p>	<p>Total Project Cost:</p> <p>SL- MDTF: US\$263,130 Government Input: US\$0 Other: US\$0</p> <p>GRAND TOTAL: US\$ 263,130</p>
<p>Development Goal and Key Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparent, accountable and democratic governance advanced at local levels • Increased capacity of local councils for the protection and response to child rights 	
<p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Welfare Departments in the 19 District Councils become operational • Child protection issues integrated into district development plans • Monitoring framework for children's homes developed 	

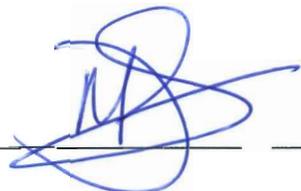
¹ The term "programme" is used for projects, programmes and joint programmes.

Signature

Date

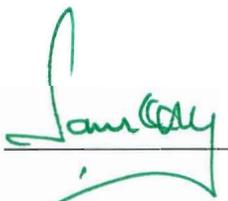
Name/Title

UNICEF


_____ 16/1/12

Mr. Mahimbo Mdoe
Country Representative

DEPAC Co-Chair


_____ 24/1/12

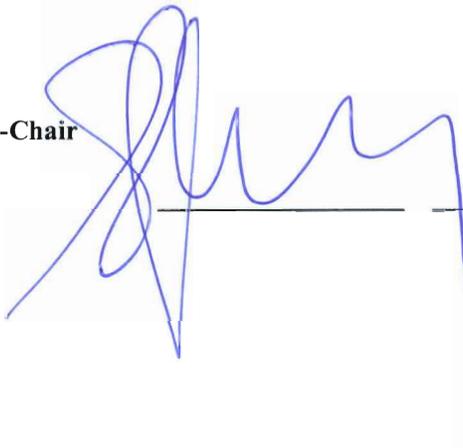
Honorable Dr. Samura Kamara
Minister of Finance and
Economic Development

DEPAC Co-Chair


_____ 18 Jan, 2012

Mr. Vijay Pillai
Country Manager
World Bank

DEPAC Co-Chair


_____ 24/01/2012

Mr. Michael von der
Schulenburg
Executive Representative
of the Secretary General
of the United Nations

Project Document

Executive Summary

The situation of children continues to be precarious in Sierra Leone. Sexual exploitation and abuse (including teenage pregnancy), child labor and physical abuse of children continue to be of grave concern nationwide. The number of out of school children remains high and number of reported cases of rape is on the increase in all districts. More children have become vulnerable and excluded from accessing basic services for their development and well being.

In 2007, the government of Sierra Leone enacted the Child Rights Act to cater for the needs of children through a legal framework in line with international laws and treaties such as the UNCRC² and its optional protocols and the ACRWC³. The Child Rights Act gives responsibility to the local councils to plan and implement participatory activities that improve the welfare of children. Additionally, the Act also gives responsibility to local councils to protect the welfare of and promote the rights of children within their areas of responsibility. Local councils shall by their appropriate *child welfare departments* investigate cases of contravention of child rights⁴.

In 2006, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA) devolved child welfare functions to local councils. The ministry additionally devolved staff to implement these functions. However local councils have not been able to fully integrate child welfare functions and devolved staff into their administration. This is because local councils have not been able to set up child welfare departments in each of the councils and train staff in the requisite skills and knowledge to implement the child welfare functions of the local councils.

Without the child welfare departments, local councils will become greatly limited in planning, budgeting and addressing the many child welfare issues that are preventing children from enjoying their rights as stipulated in the CRA and the UNCRC.

Implementation of the CRA is therefore imperative if a protective environment is to be created for children where their rights are respected and they are protected from all forms of abuse, exploitation, neglect and discrimination. Establishment of child welfare departments in local councils is pivotal to the implementation of the CRA and should be promoted urgently.

Situation Analysis

Sierra Leonean children are exposed to violence, exploitation, abuse and deprivation with almost one half of children aged 5 - 14 years engaged in some form of child labour⁵. About 11 per cent of children are orphans and 20 per cent do not live with their biological parents⁶. Sexual and gender-based violence remains a serious concern. The country has some of the highest rates of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM/C) in the world with 88.3 per cent of women aged 15 - 49 in Sierra Leone have undergone some form of genital cutting⁷. Resistance to FGM/C abandonment has been strong but no unified national response has emerged due to differences in strategies among agencies.

The 2008 review by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child commended Sierra Leone on the adoption of the Child Rights Act, as well as other legal acts and policies for children and women.

According to the CRA, the District Councils have the responsibility to promote the welfare and protect the rights of children in their area of authority. Responsibilities include coordination of government agencies in the area of child welfare, investigation of cases brought to their notice (among others by Child Welfare Committees), establishment of child panels and approve

² United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

³ African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children

⁴ Sections 39 and 58 of the CRA 2007

⁵ According to MICS 4

⁶ MICS 4

⁷ MICS 4

establishment of residential children's homes and conduct inspections of these institutions including monitoring of their compliance to minimum standards of care and protection.

In line with the CRA and the Local Government Act of 2004, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs in 2006 devolved child welfare functions to the local councils. To implement these functions local councils need to establish child welfare department that will have responsibility for planning, coordination, implementation and monitoring of child protection activities.

Local councils have not fully integrated child welfare into their development plans and management of the councils. To date:

- One out of 19 local councils (the Freetown City Council) has established a social services department.
- All 19 local councils have however incorporated child welfare into their development plans and receive subventions from central government for the implementation of child welfare functions.
- None of the local councils has assigned a budget from internally generated revenue to the welfare and protection of children.
- None of the councils have a structured monitoring in place for child welfare functions implemented in their areas of authority.
- None of the councils is fully implementing minimum standards of care for children's homes.
- None of the councils have established child protection structures at community level as mandated by the CRA.

Without the establishment of functional child welfare departments, the capacity of local councils to plan, budget and address the many child welfare issues that are preventing children from enjoying their rights as stipulated in the CRA and the UNCRC will be greatly limited.

Strategies including lessons learned and the proposed programme

To build capacity of local councils to address child welfare and protection issues, UNICEF will use the following:

- Collaboration with the Decentralization Secretariat and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs to develop and implement a road map that will guide the establishment of a child welfare department in all 19 councils.
- Roll out of legal instruments on child rights for local councils – UNICEF will collaborate with the DecSec, MSWGCA and relevant Child Protection partners to develop an appropriate training program for the local councils which will be rolled out to all councils. The training will be based on the findings from the "Training Needs Assessment of Local Councils and the MSWGCA" conducted by UNICEF, MSWGCA and LCs in 2010.
- Establishment of a child protection coordination mechanism in each local council area – UNICEF will work with the MSWGCA, local councils and Child Protection partners to develop or revive coordination mechanisms in each district to ensure that activities of service providers are coordinated to maximize impact.
- Development of appropriate tools for monitoring and regulating Childwelfare/protection activities – UNICEF will work with the DecSec and MSWGCA to develop and roll out the appropriate tools required for regulating and monitoring the activities of service providers in the area of child protection. Some of these tools will include monitoring and registration/licensing forms for children's homes, data collection forms, monitoring and reporting forms etc.

Lessons learned

Working with local councils has increased opportunities for addressing the needs of children in some districts and created government ownership of child welfare functions. The efficacy of working with local councils can be highlighted in some of these activities:

- In 8 districts, working with local councils made it possible to reunify children from children's homes in 2009/2010. Working with local councils led to the enactment of child protection by

laws at chiefdom and district level in some chiefdom. Working with local councils led to the inclusion of child protection issues in the development plans of councils.

Results framework

- Child Welfare Departments in the 19 District Councils become operational
- Monitoring framework for children's homes developed
- Child welfare structures at local level become operational
- Child Welfare issues integrated into council's development plan

Management and coordination arrangements

The Chief of child protection in UNICEF will have overall responsibility for providing oversight to the implementation of this project. The Chief will approve all activities and expenses related to the project and will also pay periodic monitoring visits to the councils to ensure quality of implementation. The Chief will hold quarterly meetings with the Capacity Building Manager of DecSec, the Director of Children's Affairs in the MSWGCA and Chairmen/Mayors of local councils to plan and share reports and evaluate the quality of implementation of this project. The UNICEF Child Protection Specialist responsible for implementing this project will work with the Principal Social Development Officers in the MSWGCA, the Chief Administrators, Development Officers and Chairmen of Social Welfare Committees in councils to plan and implement activities in this project document. The Child Protection Specialist will be assisted by the UNICEF Child Protection Officers based in the regional offices of Makeni and Kenema. The CP Specialist/CP Officers will hold monthly meetings at regional and or district level with the council and MSWGCA to discuss implementation of this project.

UNICEF will provide quarterly reports on progress of implementation using the appropriate reporting formats attached.

Fund management arrangements

UNICEF will manage the funds for the implementation of this project. UNICEF will directly procure all equipment, supplies and commodities related to the implementation of this project. For activities that the DecSec will implement, UNICEF will provide financial assistance to the DecSec through the direct execution modality under the DiPS/HACT procedures. DecSec will account to UNICEF directly for all funds expended for the implementation of this project.

UNICEF will provide financial and narrative reports on the utilization of funds allocated to the implementation of this project

UNICEF will manage the funds allocated for this project in line with the Joint Program MOU between the participating UN agencies

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

The UNICEF CP Specialist and CP Officers will be responsible for monitoring of this project. The development officers in the local councils and the Principal Social Development Officers in the MSWGCA will also have responsibility for monitoring. Monitoring will be done in line with the UN Joint Vision M&E framework. UNICEF will develop monitoring tools to measure the achievement of indicators and bench marks in the UN Joint Vision M&E framework

Monitoring will be done on a monthly and quarterly basis. On a monthly basis the UNICEF CP Specialist or the UNICEF CP Officers will monitor each of the councils to ensure quality and timeliness of implementation. On a quarterly basis the chief of the child protection section in UNICEF will conduct monitoring visits to at least one council per region and during this period provide technical support to the implementation of the project.

UNICEF will provide a quarterly report on the status of implementation and will additionally provide an end of project report

An end of project evaluation will be conducted and lessons learned from the implementation will be

disseminated for learning at national and international levels

Results Matrix

Result - A Sierra Leone that continues to make progress towards the protection of human rights, and facilitates better access to justice and ensuring gender equality				
Result Indicator	Means of verification	Baseline	Target	Assumption
# of local councils with child welfare departments	Local council organogram, assessments, monitoring reports	1 council with a social services department	18 local councils	MSWGCA will finalise devolution of staff and functions Local councils integrate child welfare functions into the administration and management of councils
# of district plans using CRC and CRA mandates	District development plans Assessment reports	None	19 district development plans	Local councils will integrate child welfare into their development agenda
% of own revenue of Local Councils allocated to the Child Protection related activities	Local council development plan Local council financial reports	No information was available	To be set up by the end of 2011.	Local councils integrate child protection into council's development program

Legal Context or Basis of Relationship

[Legal Context or Basis of Relationship referring to the Joint Vision as the core strategic framework]

This project is being developed in line with the UN Joint Vision program 16

Workplans and budgets

[Agency workplan and budget for the project, following the below standard budget format. If there is more than one recipient agency under this programme, each one must complete a separate workplan and budget of the total amount including both direct programme costs and indirect costs]

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME				Responsible person
	2012				
	1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter	
Training of local councils on their roles in the CRA	x				DecSec
Development of a roadmap for the establishment of child welfare departments	x				DecSec
Establishment of child welfare departments		x	x		DecSec/MSWGCA
Establishment of a child protection coordination forum		x	x		MSWGCA
Reunification of children from children's homes	x	x	x		UNICEF/MSWGCA

Monitoring of project implementation	x	x	x	x	UNICEF/MSWGCA/DecSec
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UNDG standard Budget

PROJECT BUDGET WITH UNDG BUDGET CATEGORIES (USD)	
CATEGORIES	TOTAL
1. Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport	60000
2. Personnel (staff, consultants and travel)	72000
3. Trainings and meetings	38000
4. Contracts	0
5. Other direct costs	75,915.90
Sub-Total Project Costs	245,915.90
Indirect Support Costs*	17,214.00
TOTAL	263,130

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