



Insert Fund specific logo, if applicable

UN Peacebuilding Fund
PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2007

Submitted by:

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Country and Thematic Area¹

Sierra Leone
Democracy and Good Governance

Programme No: 00057570

MDTF Office Atlas No:

***Programme Title: Support to National
Elections Commission (NEC) Polling Staff***

Participating Organization(s):

Implementing Partners:

- UNDP
- UNIOSIL
- National Electoral Commission (NEC)

Programme Budget (PBF):

UNDP: \$1,598,727

Programme Duration (in months):

Start date²:

End date:

- Original end date
- Operational Closure Date³, if applicable:

Budget Revisions/Extensions:

None

¹ E.g. Priority Area for the Peacebuilding Fund; Thematic Window for the Millennium Development Goals Fund (MDG-F); etc.

² The start date is the date of the first transfer of funds from the MDTF Office as Administrative Agent.

³ All activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MDTF programme have been completed. Agencies to advise the MDTF Office.

Introduction:

The Narrative Progress Report template is in line with the UNDG Standard Progress Report.

Building on continued efforts made in the UN system to produce results-based reports, the progress report should describe how the activities (inputs) contributed to the achievement of specific short-term outputs during the twelve month reporting period, and to demonstrate how the short-term outputs achieved in the reporting period collectively contributed to the achievement of the agreed upon outcomes of the Strategic (UN) Planning Framework guiding the operations of the Fund⁴.

In support of the individual programme reports, please attach any additional relevant information and photographs, assessments, evaluations and studies undertaken or published.

The information contained in the Programme Summaries and Quarterly Updates prepared by the Participating Organizations may be useful in the preparation of the Annual Narrative Progress Report. These Summaries and Updates, where applicable, are available in the respective Fund sections of the MDTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mdtf.undp.org/>).

Formatting Instructions:

- The report should not exceed 10-15 pages.
- The report should be submitted in one single Word or PDF file.
- Annexes can be added to the report but need to be clearly referenced, using footnotes or endnotes within the body of the narrative.
- Do not change the Names and Numbers of the Sections below.

NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

I. Purpose

The purpose of the project was to fill the gap in funding for elections, and provide funding for ad hoc and polling staff for both the presidential and parliamentary elections of 2007. The project provided funding for salary of over 37,000 polling staff for both August elections and the September run-off

⁴ E.g. in the case of the MDG-F, it is important to show how the programme relates to the UNDAF and how it aims to support national development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The causal links and rationale between the joint programme, the thematic window of the MDG-F and the MDGs should be clearly stated. In the case of the Peacebuilding Fund's Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility (PRF), show how the programme relates to the PBF Priority Plan's objectives. For the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund, explain how the programme relates to the UN Assistance Strategy for Iraq, UN MDGs, ICI, NDS, etc.

elections. The project also funded salary of NEC ad hoc staff (CEMs: Constituency Electoral Monitors) for the August elections.

The project related to Democracy and Good Governance area of the PBF Priority Plan. Through supporting the funding for the ad hoc polling staff, the project contributed to the successful conduct of non-violent and credible elections, marking the first democratic transition of power in the country.

II. Resources

Financial Resources:

This project complimented and filled the funding gap of the donor Basket Fund for elections, for which UNDP was also the fund manager.

There was no budget revision necessary.

Human Resources:

- National Staff: Provide details on the number and type (operation/programme).
None
- International Staff: Provide details on the number and type (operation/programme)
None

III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

- Summarize the implementation mechanisms primarily utilized and how they are adapted to achieve maximum impact given the operating context.

The project was managed within the existing framework of the Basket-fund Steering Committee between the NEC, UNIOSIL, and the electoral donors. This Steering Committee was responsible for authorizing any changes to the project outputs. The project was executed by UNDP, and UNDP held fiduciary responsibility, including fund management.

- Provide details on the procurement procedures utilized and explain variances in standard procedures.

The project was implemented under the DEX modality, and procurement was conducted in accordance with the UNDP rules and regulations on procurement. The payment to polling staff was subcontracted to a bank after a competitive selection process.

- Provide details on the monitoring system(s) that are being used and how you identify and incorporate lessons learned into the ongoing project.

Monitoring and evaluation of this project's outputs and outcomes was undertaken within the framework of the Electoral Reform Support Project and was the responsibility of the project's Steering Committee.

Monitoring and evaluation of project outcomes paid specific attention to the following issues:

- Efficiency and timeliness in the payment of ECMs and polling staff

- Impact on polling preparations by NEC
 - Perception of polling day from the public
- Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken.

Evaluation of the project was conducted as part of the mid-term evaluation of the Peacebuilding Fund for Sierra Leone carried out in April 2009.

IV. Results

The recruitment and payment for polling staff for both August elections and the run-off election in September went very smoothly, contributing to the successful conduct of credible, free, and non-violent elections.

Payment to over 37,000 polling staff for August and September elections were effected on time, as well as the payment for CEM salary for August.

Polling staff were very professional in the conduct of their duties which ensured transparent counting and display of results in polling centers. The coordination and planning showed a high sense of organization that contributed to the successful elections that marked the first democratic change of power in the history of Sierra Leone.

A major challenge faced during the implementation was the designing of the funding flows from the bank to more than 37,000 polling staff scattered across the country within a limited amount of time while putting in place necessary mechanisms to safeguard the transparency. The NEC district electoral officers (DEOs) and UN Electoral Advisors in the various districts effected payment for polling staff salary with the assistance of the constituency electoral monitors (CEMs). In addition, the UN Electoral Advisors trained the polling staff in carrying out their duties in the elections. This collaboration at the local level was instrumental for ensuring the transparency and credibility in the conduct of elections.

V. Future Work Plan (if applicable)

The project operationally closed in 2007.

VI. Performance Indicators (optional)⁵

VII. Abbreviations and Acronyms

- *NEC - National Electoral Commission*
- *CEMs - Constituency Electoral Monitors*
- *UNDP – United Nations Development Programme*
- *UNIOSIL – United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone*

⁵ E.g. for the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund and the MDG-F.