

Annex 1

	<u>Insert Fund specific logo, if applicable</u>
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SL-MDTF

FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: JAN-DEC 2011

Submitted by:

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Country and Thematic Area¹

Community Recovery and Preventive Development

Programme No: 18

MDTF Office Atlas No:

Programme Title: Rural Community Empowerment

Participating Organization(s): FAO,

UNDP, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UN Women

Implementing Partners:

Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
Ministry of Energy and Water Resources
Ministry of Internal Affairs

Programme Budget (from the Fund):

For Joint Programme provide breakdown by UN Organization
UNDP: **300,666.87 USD**

Programme Duration (12months):

Start date²: June 28 2010

- *Original end date:* December 31 2010
- *Revised end date:* March 31 2011
- *Operational Closure Date:* September 2011

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.

I. Purpose

The project aims to increase and enhance access to information and connectivity in rural communities. In pursuance of the objective the project will increase the lines of communication and information into rural communities through the introduction of the schools education programmes via satellite TV.

The main outcome of this project is to enable senior secondary schools to have access to global education programmes via satellite TV. The key output/deliverable is to achieve improved connectivity (internet and satellite TV) in rural communities facilitated by public private partnership.

Under the overall priority of furthering the consolidation of peace in Sierra Leone and the programmatic priority to support the economic integration of the rural areas, Joint Vision Programme 18 aims to support the achievement of national development priorities as set out in the Government's Agenda for Change. As part of the Joint Vision Programme 18, this project contributes to the UN Joint Vision's broader effort to ensure the participation of rural communities in sustainable economic development and the promotion of access to services.

The project is executed by UNDP and UNDP is primarily responsible for procurement, financial management and oversight. UNDP will focus on the strategy and financing of the services, funding is from DaO, while the other UN agencies involved will focus on the delivery of the services by way of complementing the effort of UNDP at the community level. UNDP is responsible for the overall strategic development and monitoring of the initiatives and programme implementation.

There has been decline in education standards in senior secondary schools as reflected in the recent past West African Schools Certificate Examination (WASCE) results. The most advanced reason for this is lack of trained and qualified teachers (due to high labour mobility rate for greener pastures) and teaching/training materials in most senior secondary schools.

This project will directly contribute to the outcomes of the Sierra Leone Education Development Plan (2007-2015). The Plan describes how to *To improve the quality of Senior Secondary education nationwide* through a number of interventions one of which is to *Ensure that there is improvement in the quality of teaching/learning environment*. To achieve this outcome the plan includes such outputs as

- Schools with more aids and teacher guides that are in use
- Partner with companies providing internet facilities
- Provide each school with a television and VCR/DVD player for viewing 'master teachers' sample lessons
- Provide solar power to the schools

II. Resources

Financial Resources:

The total amount of 346,000 USD was approved as the 2010 budget. The resources are allocated for the provision of TVs, DVD recorders/players and Solar Panel Voltaic Cells (SPVCs) modules to thirty (30) Senior Secondary Schools across the country.

Human Resources:

UNDP Field Officer - the Field Officer has the responsibility to engage with all key stakeholders including implementing partners and project beneficiaries.

III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

The project seeks to achieve its objectives through a public-private partnership between UNDP and Multichoice International (SL) Limited. Multichoice International has agreed to partner with UNDP to provide the schools with educational TV programming at no cost as part of the company's Community Social Initiatives programme.

For this project, Multichoice International provided the following:

- The DSTV channels (in perpetuity);
- Training of sixty (60) teachers;
- The decoder fee (Free On Board);
- The satellite dish, cables and installation (100 USD per school);
- The installation of the equipment (including the solar equipment).

UNDP will procure, through competitive tendering, the following equipments for the schools:

- Thirty (30) 32 inch HD plasma TVs;
- Thirty (30) DVD recorders/players;
- Forty (40) solar panels, inverters, batteries and cables.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) has approved the satellite TV channels from an educational point of view. The beneficiary Senior Secondary Schools were selected by MEST who are also responsible for arranging for the schools to take full responsibility of the care and maintenance of the system.

The solar powered system was designed by technicians from the Ministry of Energy and Power and verified by the technical expert from the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). The system will be powered by solar generated electricity and as a result, will have no operating costs. Thus, once installed, there will be no operational costs. The only envisaged cost will be the replacement of a new battery once every three years.

It is estimated that the funds will be sufficient to cover the costs for the set-up of the educational programming via satellite TV for thirty (30) schools. The final number of schools covered will depend on the actual cost of the solar equipment, as this is the most expensive item to be procured.

Due to limited local knowledge and availability of renewable solar power energy systems, including the specifications of the components of the SPVCs and accessories, the contracts for the procurement of forty (30) bulk SPVC modules and the training of sixty (60) teaching staff and installation processes was tendered in September 2010 to the Global Procurement

Unit, UNDP Procurement Support Office (PSO) in Copenhagen. The consignment of solar equipments arrived in July 2011.

The other equipments such as the 32 inch HD Plasma TVs and DVD recorders/players required for the setting up of the system were procured during 2010 and are ready to be installed in early 2011. The provision of the Multichoice International DStv decoders, installation was carried out in November through December 2011. The training of personnel is the responsibility of DStv Multichoice Transnational (SL) Limited and will be carried out in 2012. The main lesson learned in 2010 is related to the delay faced in terms of the international procurement through UNDP's PSO in Copenhagen. UNDP Sierra Leone lack technical expertise in the area of renewable energy, especially "Solar Power". This situation resulted in the back and forth request for clarifications on the specifications submitted by UNDP Sierra Leone by PSO and intended bidders. This lesson was incorporated in the 2011 work plan in order to mitigate such delays in the next reporting period. In the planning activity (monitoring of the installation and use) output 1; hire the services of an expert in 'solar energy'.

Project monitoring and reporting was carried out as per the UN Joint Vision joint M&E system.

The effective monitoring for the successful implementation of the project was the joint effort of UNDP, MEST and Multichoice International (SL) Limited and each entity monitors' its own project components. Effective and efficient coordination mechanisms including stakeholders at all levels, such as bi-weekly monitoring of the installation and later, the full operation of the system, will remain crucial for the duration of the project.

UNDP, in collaboration with the MEST and Ministry of Works, Housing and Infrastructure (MHWI), identified, informed and inspected thirty (30) Senior Secondary Schools across all the districts in Sierra Leone, including the Western Rural and Urban areas.

IV. Results

UNDP partnered with Multichoice International (SL) Limited, UNIDO, MEST, MHWI, District Education Inspectorate Offices, Principals of Senior Secondary Schools and other private companies in the planning and implementation process of the school satellite TV education project in 2010.

In relation to the planned output, the following has been achieved by 2011

Activity 1. The procurement of 32" HD Plasma TVs and DVD recorders:

UNDP Sierra Leone's Project Implementation Support Unit (PISU) approved and awarded the procurement and supply of the thirty (30) DVD recorders/players and thirty (30) 32 inch HD Plasma TVs for the targeted selected schools countrywide in 2010.

Activity 2. Supply, training and installation of bulk SPVC modules and accessories:

The contracts for the supply and installation of the SPVC modules and accessories as well as the training for sixty (60) staff of the targeted Senior Secondary Schools countrywide were tendered by PSO Copenhagen in May 2011 to Phaesun Germany who later contracted counterpart in Sierra Leone -RCD Solar Company.

Activity 3. Procurement of additional equipment (blank DVD RWs):

This activity is dependent on the successful delivery and installation of the SPVC modules and accessories. This activity was completed in 2011. There was also delay in the arrival of the TVs and DVD recorders/players, which finally reached Sierra Leone in December 2010. However, this delay did not adversely affect project implementation since clarifications with UNDP's global PSO were still ongoing with regard to the design and specifications for the Invitation to Bid exercise to commence. The supply was placed under the safekeeping of UNDP in the case of the DVD recorders, and the supplier, Razpec, in the case of the TVs and solar equipments. The majority of the items were therefore in-country and are ready for installation works to commence in July 2011.

V. Future Work Plan

The following activities are slated for the first quarter of 2012:

1. Training of two (2) teachers from each school, totaling sixty (60) teachers, on usage and maintenance of the satellite TV education programmes.
2. The national launching of the school education programme via satellite in January 2012

VI. Abbreviations and Acronyms

- List the main abbreviations and acronyms that are used in the report.

ACP	UNDP's Advisory Committee on Procurement
MEST	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
MWHI	Ministry of Works, Housing and Infrastructure
PISU	Project Implementation Support Unit
PSO	Procurement Support Office
SPVC	Solar Panel Voltaic Cells
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Office