



Peacebuilding Fund

FINAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 12 JUNE 2009 – 31 DECEMBER 2010

Submitted by:

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Country and Thematic Area²

Sierra Leone, Peace Consolidation

Programme No: PBF/EMER-10
MDTF Office Atlas No: 00071303

Programme Title:

Supporting the Implementation of the Joint
Communiqué through the Refurbishment of the
SLPP Headquarters

Participating Organization(s):

UNDP, UNIPSIL

Implementing Partners:

National counterparts

- PPRC, APC, SLPP, PMDC, NDA
- Artists United for Peacebuilding,
Amputee Sports Club
- IMC

Programme Budget (from the Fund):

USD 946,950

Programme Duration (in months):

Start date³: 12 June 2009

End date: 31 December 2010

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

² E.g. Priority Area for the Peacebuilding Fund; Thematic Window for the Millennium Development Goals Fund (MDG-F); etc.

³ The start date is the date of the first transfer of funds from the MDTF Office as Administrative Agent.

I. Purpose

In March 2009, Sierra Leone was hit by the biggest eruption of violence since the end of the conflict in 2002. Violent clashes involving the supporters of the two main parties resulted in multiple injuries and destruction. On April 2, the two parties publicly pledged to work together to prevent further political violence in the country. In a Joint Communiqué signed in front of President and witnessed by the ERSG, the APC and the SLPP vowed to “work jointly in preventing all forms of political incitement, provocation and intimidation”. The immediate objectives of the programme, therefore, are to:

1. Ensure that political parties and their supporters engage in a respectful and professional attitude towards their opponents, state institutions and policy issues;
2. Ensure that efforts of political leadership are backed up by a general consensus within the public opinion in particular the youth;
3. Foster non-partisan media to address the issue of partisanship and the role media played in further exacerbating the conflict.

The expected outputs of the programme to achieve objectives above are as follows:

| Expected Outputs | |
|------------------|--|
| Objective 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Political reconciliation• Professionalization of political parties’ leadership advanced |
| Objective 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trust building enhanced and peace promoted, particularly among youth, and general public awareness of the processes |
| Objective 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-partisan media supported through greater monitoring capacity of the Independent Media Commission• Ethic and legal training of journalists |

This programme has several Implementing Partners to achieve the objectives as follows:

| Implementing Partners | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Objective 1 | PPRC, APC, SLPP, PMDC, NDA |
| Objective 2 | PPRC, Political Party Youth Leaders, Artist United for Peace Building, Amputee Sports Club |
| Objective 3 | Independent Media Commission |

II. Resources

Financial Resources:

The project received a total of 946,950 USD from the PBF.

Human Resources:

The following Human Resources supported implementation and provided oversight:

International:

- Civil Affairs Officer – UNIPSIL;
- UNV Political Affairs Officer - UNIPSIL;
- UNV Programme Manager (Youth and Peacebuilding) – UNDP.

National:

- 2 Civil Affairs Officer – UNIPSIL;
- Programme Associate - UNDP.

III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

The programme has been directly executed by UNDP in collaboration with the UNIPSIL Political and Peace Consolidation Unit Team. The programme design and planning carried out primarily by UNIPSIL’s Political and Peace Consolidation Team while UNDP provided technical and operational advice on effective implementation. However, UNDP was responsible for the overall management of the project. Procurement was carried out by UNDP and regular monitoring and evaluation was undertaken by UNIPSIL and UNDP jointly.

IV. Results

Based on the stated objectives, the key results of the project are as follows:

| Expected Outputs | | Key Final Results | |
|------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| 1) | ▪ Political reconciliation | 1) | ▪ Resource Centre established. |
| 2) | ▪ Professionalization of political parties’ leadership advanced | 2) | ▪ IT facilities procured; ▪ Political Women’s Wings District dialogue facilitated & National Workshop conducted; ▪ APPYA established and National Convention held; ▪ APPWA established. |
| 3) | ▪ Trust building enhanced and peace promoted, particularly among youth, and general public awareness of the processes | 3) | ▪ Artist United for Peace Building concerts held and awareness raising carried out in Lungi, Kabala, and Freetown; ▪ Amputee Football 4 Peace Tours conducted in |

| | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| | | | Kenema, Bo, Kabala, Makeni, Lungi, and Freetown. |
| 4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Non-partisan media supported through greater monitoring capacity of the Independent Media Commission | 4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resource Centre established at the IMC regional office in Bo. |
| 5) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Media journalists, reporters, and managers are aware of legal and ethical norms. | 5) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Needs assessment survey of the capacity of local media monitors conducted. |

❖ ***Output 1: Political Reconciliation***

In support of the Joint Communiqué, it was crucial that its messages be widely disseminated throughout the country. While urban, politically aware communities were vaguely aware of the Communiqué, there was limited knowledge on its content and key messages. Also, communities in rural areas, due to lack of access to media and infrastructural constraints, were still insufficiently aware of the Communiqué and the specific commitments entered into by the political parties. Therefore, in order to enable the constituents hold the signatories of the Communiqué to account, its dissemination has been recognized as critically important. By the end of 2010, jingles on the themes of the Joint Communiqué were produced in Sierra Leone’s five main indigenous languages (Krio, Mende, Temne, Limba and Kono). In addition, a film on the Joint Communiqué was produced as well as an abridged audio version was produced for screening and dissemination over radio. In 2010, the screening of the drama and dissemination of the audio version of the drama over the radio were completed at all 149 chiefdoms.

Output 2: Professionalization of political leaders and establishment of Resource Centre

This output served to equip the party membership with the means to deepen their understanding of current and topical issues, enhancing the quality of and stimulating issue-based debates. To this end, the programme provided a Resources Centre to parties registered with the PPRC at their national headquarters, containing books and internet facilities. PPRC is playing a key role to mobilize the stakeholders, particularly major political parties to help develop and own the common property together, contributing to political reconciliation. During 2010, the Implementing Partner, Search for Common Ground, procured a total of 1,300 books on human rights, peacebuilding, religion, and governance, amongst others.

The PPRC, political parties and UNIPSIL jointly implemented the below activities during the project period:

Provision of operational equipment to the APC, SLPP and PMDC

20 desktop computers with UPS and 12 printers were procured and distributed to the three political parties in Parliament on a proportional basis. APC and SLPP being the largest received 8 computers and 5 printers each, while PMDC received 4 computers and 2 printers. The political

parties were requested to ensure that the women and youth wings were able to make use of the equipment.

Support for intra-party retreats of the women wings of APC, SLPP and PMDC - APPWA

In total, 42 dialogues were held in the 14 Districts for the women's wings of the three main political parties. The main objective was to work towards an increase in the representation of women in political processes. As such, the dialogues provided a platform for discussions and affirmative action, in a party specific context, to see how this can be achieved. Political parties developed their respective gender policies and action plans that would provide the basis and roadmap towards the main objective.

All the parties strongly recommended for a national dialogue during which they will collectively present a consolidated outcome of the dialogues to the President and to development partners to achieve the objective with the 2012 elections in sight. The formation of an umbrella association for women members of political parties was strongly recommended. As a result, the APPWA was formed by the female wings leaders comprising of members of the APC, PMDC, NDA and SLPP. As a way of supporting the association, 4 projectors, 4 screens, and 4 mini laptops were provided to enhance the group's outreach capacities.

Support to the APPYA

The support included the following activities and achievements during the project period:

- Regional meetings held bringing together national, regional and district executives;
- The draft constitution was discussed and preliminarily adopted;
- A draft National Strategic Plan 2010-2013 was developed;
- Functions were assigned and national, regional and district APPYA executives appointed;
- A national delegate convention (December 2 – 4 2010) finally formalized all these arrangements and pushed the process forward;
- The national delegate convention brought together 120 members of the interim executive committees at the national, regional and district level;
- The Strategic Plan and Constitution have been adopted and a national executive committee formally elected.

The formal set up of APPYA marks an important step in following up on implementation of the Joint Communiqué. The commitment displayed by the delegates to work together across party delineations and to overcome acrimonious interaction patterns was extremely positive. APPYA is now contributing towards internal democracy and accountability within the political parties and may serve as a counterweight to extremist elements.

❖ ***Output 3: Trust building enhanced and peace promoted among the public***

Outreach Concert by the Artist United for Peacebuilding

The Artist United for Peacebuilding which covered four districts conducted outreach in Freetown, Kabala, and Lungi through the conduct of regional concerts. More than 3,000 community members participated in the activities in total. The Artists delivered anti-violence messages in politics and elections and spread messages of the Joint Communiqué through two national peace songs which were launched with the President in June 2009.

Single Leg Amputee Sport Club – Football Games

Recognizing their own roles to promote peace in their communities and in the nation as a whole, the Single Leg Amputee Sports Club organized the “Play for Peace Festivals – through Amputee Football” in Kenema, Bo, Kabala, Makeni, Lungi and Freetown. The events consisted of:

- . Amputee Football 4 Peace Tours
- . Musical Concerts
- . Community Peace Rallies
- . Radio/TV Discussions and Sensitization
- . Mobile Car Publicity

The project primarily targeted youth who are easily manipulated to incite political violence. Football in Sierra Leone has been highly recognized as a tool to improve social relations and to enhance the recognition of youth within the community. Thousands of community members watched the single leg amputees, who were victims of the civil war, play football in eight teams. Awareness was raised on the importance of peace at the community levels.

❖ ***Output 4&5: Non-partisan media supported through enhancement of IMC***

The Resource Centre at Bo regional office was established and officially opened on November 29 2010 and the library and internet facilities available have proved to be very popular with journalists and students. The maintenance and sustainability of the regional office Resource Centre is managed by the IMC.

A needs assessment survey in order to inform future capacity enhancement support to local media monitors was also carried out during the project period. The zero draft of the findings report was submitted to the IMC Board Members on December 9 2010.

The IMC contracted the Conflict Management and Development Associates on July 13 2010 to evaluate the work of the IMC with journalists in Sierra Leone. The findings provided clear information and data on the number of radio/TV stations and newspapers in operation and their respective management policies, staffing structure, coverage, training opportunities and other conditions of service. In addition, the assessment evaluated the usage of IMC’s public service facilities such as the library and internet café, and IMC’s human capacity, technical and financial capacity. The result of assessment will help IMC in identifying progress made thus far and gaps which need to be addressed for future activity planning to improve the work of media practitioners, diversify access to information, and increase pluralism in the media landscape

V. Abbreviations and Acronyms

APC – All Peoples’ Congress

APPAYA – All Political Parties Youth Association

APPAWA – All Political Parties Women Association

CPAP – Country Programme Action Plan

ERSG – Executive Representative to the Secretary General

IMC - Independent Media Commission

NDA – National Democratic Alliance

SLPP – Sierra Leone Peoples Party

PBF – Peacebuilding Fund

PMDC – People’s Movement for Democratic Change

PPRC – Political Parties Registration Commission

UNDP – United Nations Development Programme

UNIPSIL – United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone