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**PBF PROJECT progress report**

*Updated May 2023*

**COUNTRY:** Sierra Leone

**TYPE OF REPORT: Final** **YEAR of report:** 2023

**Project overview**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Title:** Empowering youth at risk as resources for sustaining peace and community resilience in Tonkolili and Kenema districts in Sierra Leone  **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway:** 00124562 | |
| **If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:**  Country Trust Fund  Regional Trust Fund  **Name of Recipient Fund:** | **Type and name of recipient organizations:**  **RUNO** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)  **(Convening Agency)**  **RUNO** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  **RUNO** United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) |
| **Date of first transfer:** 28. October 2022  **Project end date:** 27. April 2023  **Has this project received a cost or no cost extension?** Yes  **Will this project be requesting a cost or no-cost extension?** No  **Is the current project end date within 6 months?** No | |
| **Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows:**  Gender promotion initiative  Youth promotion initiative  Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions  Cross-border or regional project | |
| **Total PBF approved project budget (by recipient organization):**   * *Please enter the total amounts in US dollars allocated to each recipient organization* * *Please enter the original budget amount, amount transferred to date and estimated expenditure by recipient.* * *For cross-border projects, group the amounts by agency, even where transfers are made to different country offices. You can provide the detail in the attached budget.*  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Recipient organisation** | **Budget Allocated ($)** | **Amount Transferred to date ($)** | **Amount spent to date ($)** | | **FAO** | **1,750,000** | **1,750,000** | **1,668,796** | | **UNDP** | **850,000** | **850,000** | **764,531.94** | | **UNFPA** | **400,000** | **400,000** | **400,000** | | **TOTAL** | **3,000,000** | **3,000,000** | **2,883,327.94** |   Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: 94%  \*ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE\*  **The budget templates are available** [**here**](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/application-guidelines)  **Implementing partners**  To how many implementing partners has the project transferred money to date? 10  Please list all the project's implementing partners and the amounts (in USD) transferred to each to date   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | ***Name of Implementing Partner*** | ***Type of Organisation (ex. Govt, civil society, etc.)*** | ***What is the total amount (in USD) disbursed to the implementing partner to date*** | ***Briefly describe the main activities carried out by the Implementing Partner (175 mots)*** | | Caritas Sierra Leone - Bo | Civil society | 56,022.42 | Under a partner agreement with FAO, Caritas Bo supported the implementation of Outcome 3 as well as general project monitoring activities in Kenema district. The partner has established VSLA schemes in 9 communities and supported crop production (cassava, rice) in 3 communities. The partner has facilitated community mobilization and day to day monitoring of infrastructure activities and monthly monitoring to project sites by district stakeholders, and supported collection of qualitative and quantitative data. | | Caritas Sierra Leone - Makeni | Civil society | 50,679.62 | Under a partner agreement with FAO, Caritas Makeni supported the implementation focusing on Outcome 3 as well as general project monitoring activities in Tonkolili district. The partner has established VSLA schemes in 9 communities and supported crop production (groundnut) in 01 community. The partner facilitated community mobilization and day to day monitoring of infrastructure activities and monthly monitoring to project sites by district stakeholders, and supported collection of qualitative and quantitative data. | | Fambul Initiative Network for Inequality Sierra Leone (FINE-SL) | Civil society | 222,398.85 | Under a partner agreement with UNFPA, FINE-SL facilitated stakeholder engagements and dialogue on gender, GBV and Y@R issues in target communities in both districts; trained and supported Male Advocacy Peer Educators (MAPEs) to raise awareness on GBV and SRHR at community level; and conducted Husband Schools. FINE-SL has established and operate one Crisis Drop-In center in each district which serves as a point of GBV referrals and a safe social space as an alternative to the street and ‘ghettos’. | | Ministry of Youth Affairs | Government | 57,938.07 | Under a partner agreement with UNDP, MOYA facilitated the implementation of two rounds of football galas in the targeted communities, chiefdoms and district, to promote friendly interactions and social cohesion among the beneficiaries. | | National Youth Commission (NAYCOM) | Government | 86,444 | Under a partner agreement with UNDP, NAYCOM facilitated trainings on Transformational Youth Leadership, social change and conflict resolution for Y@R as well as for District and Chiefdom Youth Councils (DYCs/CYCs). | | National Council for Civic Education and Development (NACCED) | Government | 98,542 | Under a partner agreement with UNDP, NACCED facilitated civic education trainings for Y@R, identified and trained peace ambassadors at chiefdom level, and conducted dialogue fora between Y@R and community, chiefdom and district stakeholders. | | Sierra Leone Psychiatric Teaching Hospital -Mohs | Government | 30,987.00 | Under a partner agreement with UNDP, PTMH-MoHS assessed Youth at risk on drugs and substance abuse, Training for Community Health Workers to conduct counselling session and Conducted psychoeducation with Youth at Risk, family and communities. | | Center for Accountability and Rule of Law (CARL) | Civil society | 30,840.00 | Under a partner agreement with UNDP, CARL supported the review and amendment process of the CPA and SLCS act including advocacy. | | Sierra Leone Correctional Service | Government | 71,474 | In Partnership agreement with UNDP, SLCS coordinated and facilitated the process of earning scheme and skills training program for Youth at risk inmates in prison. Trained prison staff on life skills curriculum and support the roll out and facilitate the review and amendment of the SLCS 2014 Act. | | Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI) | Academia | No funds were transferred rather require payment for services provided and the payment have been completed | Under a partner agreement with the SLCS, RWI are engaged to facilitate targeted trainings aiming at strengthening the capacities of center managers, correctional industry officers and the Standards Inspectorate Department on pilot earning scheme activities, correctional management and maintenance of detention standards, development of M&E Plan for the Correctional Service and youth-responsive policing strategies. These activities have been completed and a training manual developed |   **Gender-responsive Budgeting:**  Indicate what percentage (%) of the budget contributes gender equality or women's empowerment (GEWE)? 30  Indicate dollar amount from the project document to contribute to gender equality or women’s empowerment: 900,000  Amount expended to date on efforts contributing to gender equality or women’s empowerment: 730,625 | |
| **Project Gender Marker:** GM2  **Project Risk Marker:** Medium  **Project PBF focus area:** 2.3 | |
| **Steering Committee and Government engagement**  **Does the project have an active steering committee?**  Yes, the project has a project board.  **If yes, please indicate how many times the Project Steering Committee has met over the last 6 months?1**  **Please provide a brief description of any engagement that the project has had with the government over the last 6 months? Please indicate what level of government the project has been engaging with? (275 words max.)**  The project engaged with all expected partners as planned.  The project engaged with the government at the ministerial, deputy-ministerial, line ministry (Youth, Agriculture), district and chiefdom levels in addition to advocating with parliamentarians.  Activities in the target districts were implemented with district youth structures including District and Youth Councils. Youth leadership and peace-building activities under Outputs 1.1 and 1.2 were directly implemented by government institutions as mentioned above; they facilitated sports galas, implemented civic education and dialogue for facilitated counselling sessions on substance abuse through their district extension structures and the inclusion of Y@Risk into decision-making structure at District and Chiefdom levels (DYC/CYC).  Under Output 1.3, FINE-SL formed and held dialogues with key community structures which lead to the establishment of a memorandum of understanding between youth at risk and community leaders outlining the community’s commitment to ending GBV in the community. They increased awareness among youth at risk and the wider community on the importance of ending GBV and other harmful practices including support to referral pathways.  The Center for Accountability and Rule of Law (CARL) led advocacy activities under Output 2.2 and engaged parliamentarians on the review and subsequent passing of CPA & SLCS Act 2014. For the livelihood activities under Output 3.2, all trainings were co-facilitated with the district officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, who also take the lead in monitoring crop production activities on a weekly basis together with the FAO field-based agronomist.  Several monitoring visits to the project target areas were made with the government; including a mission with the Hon. Minister of Youth Affairs, the Hon. Deputy Minister of Agriculture and the Heads of Agencies (FAO, UNDP, UNFPA); a joint monitoring visit with all technical focal persons of the agencies, counterpart government institutions at national and district level, and implementing partners; as well as a visit by the Resident Coordinator. For Output 3, the project supported several agronomic follow up missions with technical team of the Ministry of Agriculture in close collaboration with the field based agronomist ensuring that the agricultural inputs are utilized as planned. | |
| **Report preparation:**  Project report prepared by: FAO, UNDP, UNFPA  Project report approved by: Agency Representatives at Country Level  Did PBF Secretariat review the report: Yes | |

***NOTES FOR COMPLETING THE REPORT:***

*- Avoid acronyms and UN jargon, use general /common language.*

*- Report on what has been achieved in the reporting period, not what the project aims to do.*

*- Be as concrete as possible. Avoid theoretical, vague or conceptual discourse.*

*- Ensure the analysis and project progress assessment is gender and age sensitive.*

*- In the results table, please be concise, you will have 3000 characters, including blank spaces to provide your responses*

**PART 1: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS**

**Please rate the implementation status of the following preliminary/preparatory activities** *(Not Started, Initiated, partially Completed, Completed, Not Applicable):*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Contracting of Partners | Completed |
| Staff Recruitment | Completed |
| Collection of baselines | Completed |
| Identification of beneficiaries | Completed |

**Provide any additional descriptive information relating to the status of the project, including whether preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (i.e. contracting of partners, staff recruitment, etc.) (250 word limit):**

The No Cost Extension (NCE) (approved in October 2022) optimized and finalized the outstanding activities with exception of the livelihood and community infrastructures which are expected to be all finalized by the end of April 2024 due to challenges faced with the contractor. The construction of the livelihood and community infrastructures faced significant challenges due to the poor financial capacity of the hired contractor. The structures were not completed and handed over to the groups within this reporting period. Instead, due to delays in identifying a contractor to finalise and handover the buildings, it is currently expected that the community infrastructure projects will be finalized by the end of April 2024.

The project made the Youth at Risk proud and useful in target areas, with increased awareness among key stakeholders of the target group ‘youth at risk’ as not only a social problem but as a group of young people who can and will change, socially reintegrate and demonstrate approaches to engaging them and addressing their specific situation.

FOR PROJECTS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF COMPLETION: summarise **the main structural, institutional or societal level change the project has contributed to**. This is not anecdotal or a list of individual outputs or activities, but a description of progress made toward the main purpose of the project where evidence contribution to outcomes is available if requested. (550 word limit):

Project activities have been completed in this reporting period.

Behavioural change was positively influenced through the project cycle and could be attributed to greater participation in community decision making, the development of a viable livelihood and the provision of counselling services to youth at risk. By the end of the project, approximately 38% of project beneficiaries declared that they “often” participate in community meetings, with a further 52% stated that they “sometimes” participate in such meetings, compared to baseline figures of 4% and 34%, respectively. Youth at risk also recorded a significant change in perception of their ability to influence decision making, with 57% agreeing in the baseline that their opinions can influence community-decision making, which increased to 87% at the evaluation stage and comparable to youth more broadly. Similar improvements were seen in attitudes to violence. The project evaluation found that 88% of youth at risk declared the use of violence is never justified, a very large improvement from 16.8% at the baseline. In qualitative interviews, the positive effect of counselling can be seen as a contribution to behavioural change among the 336 recipient beneficiaries. The counselling included discussing the bio-psychosocial effects of substance abuse, socio-economic impacts and a voluntary commitment to quit drugs at the send of the counselling sessions.

The economic incentives to join cliques and gangs have been reduced with 78 female and 52 male youth at risk (Y@R) have been productively engaged in farming, small business and other alternative work complementing the livelihood support provided by the project. Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) associated with youths at risk agricultural livelihood activities have contributed to reducing engagement in illicit and risky economic livelihoods strategies.

The refurbishment of two correctional facilities structures in Mafanta and Kenema was completed and equiped by the project to support the implementation of the Earning Policy Scheme and skills training activities for 100 Youth at Risk inmates (90 males, 10 females). Advocacy activities in relation to the review of the Criminal Procedure Act (CPA) of 1965 and Sierra Leone Correctional Service Act 2014 (SLCS) continue, with UNDP complementing project funding to support the pre-legislative review sessions, which is a precursor to any enactment. There is broad based political support for the review, with the expectation that new legislation will be enacted. The civil society organisation CARL will continue advocacy for the passage of the revised Acts.

The RCO’s Peace and Development Advisor provided training to Chiefdom Peace Ambassadors and local youth structures on conflict analysis and mitigation to strengthen their capacities to conduct peace-building activities at community level. Outreach and awareness raising activities were also conducted on peace building, drug abuse and sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) reaching 1592 youths project beneficiaries in different locations in collaboration with Peace Ambassadors, Community Health Workers (CHWs) & Peer Educators. Monitoring reports, including interviews with beneficiaries and project stakeholders, indicated that many or indeed the majority of beneficiaries have reduced or ceased the consumptions of drugs, following a greater awareness of not only the financial cost of drug use, but also the health and community impacts. Further supporting reasons for reducing or quitting drugs were the freeing up of money for other purchases, including food (Monitoring Report, October, 2022).

To foster peace and social cohesion, MOYA facilitated football galas in the four chiefdoms culminating in an inter-district final competition for male and female youth. The galas were used as platforms to disseminate peace-building messages.

In two implementation districts, memorandum of understandings (MoUs) on ownership, sustainability and the maintenance of law and order were signed by over 90 key community stakeholders. Leaders now encourage youth participation in decision making for a including the Chiefdom and District Youth Councils, with youth who used to be agents of chaos and unrest have transformed to more beneficial members of their societies leading to a more peaceful community. Through the crisis drop-in centres beneficiary youth were diverted from “ghettos” leading to quick transformation. Enhanced positive parenting especially among males/husbands was promoted through the Husband Schools that were established in all the 18 communities in the target areas.  The Husband Schools approach was instrumental to address toxic masculinity, fiscal responsibility, violence against women and girls, negative spousal relationship. This targeted male adults of the communities, fathers, traditional and religious leaders to address issues as change makers and influencers within their communities.

Monthly radio discussions were frequently held by key players to popularise SRHR, GBV messages and to inculcate positive Social Norms change for stakeholders in the various implementing communities.

**PART II: RESULT PROGRESS BY PROJECT OUTCOME**

*Describe overall progress under each Outcome made during the reporting period (for June reports: January-June; for November reports: January-November; for final reports: full project duration). Do not list individual activities. If the project is starting to make/has made a difference at the outcome level, provide specific evidence for the progress (quantitative and qualitative) and explain how it impacts the broader political and peacebuilding context.*

* *“On track” refers to the timely completion of outputs as indicated in the workplan.*
* *“On track with peacebuilding results” refers to higher-level changes in the conflict or peace factors that the project is meant to contribute to. These effects are more likely in mature projects than in newer ones.*

**How many outcomes does the project have? 3**

**Outcome 1: Youth at risk (women and men) are empowered and included in decision-making processes in their communities in the target districts**

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress:** on track with evidence of peace-building impacts

**Progress summary:** *(350 word limit)*

UNDP through The National Council for Civic Education and. Development (NaCCED) NaCCED and National Youth Commission (NaYCOM) trained 402 (M197/F105) Youth at risk on civic education, peace building and gender equality which has increased their understanding of their rights and responsibilities, while engaging them in community development programs.[[1]](#footnote-2) The project has facilitated youth participation in decision-making through dialogue fora between the Y@R and community stakeholders including addressing Y@R inclusion in decision-making, access to community services and preventing discrimination of youths, as well as empowering the two District Youth Councils and four Chiefdom Youth Councils with trainings on transformational leadership, group dynamics, social change, and conflict resolution across the project communities.

UNDP, through MoHS, assessed Youth at Risk on psychoactive drugs and substance use, targeting 107 beneficiaries with psycho-social and livelihoods support of whom 59% of the beneficiaries were assessed to be of high drug use (High Risk), 39% moderate use and 4% low risk across the two project Districts. In a similar effort, the project trained 25 health workers (M: 20; F: 5) in project districts and rolled-out psycho-education sessions to 336 (Male 206, Female 130) beneficiaries on bio-psychosocial effects of substance abuse.

FINE-SL with funding and technical support from UNFPA, organised community sports meetings in project communities and family planning referral spots were established. 6,400 condoms were distributed reaching 1,280 people (F: 925; M: 355). Two crisis drop-in centers were established in project districts which served as entry points for providing referrals and counselling services for Youth at Risk beneficiaries.

Through the project advocacy interventions in project communities where 400 community stakeholders were engaged in dialogue, an MOU was signed and community by-laws developed as a show of commitment by stakeholders to fight against GBV, promote SRHR, support the youth to end gang and clique activities and empowerment of Male Advocates and Peer Educators (MAPES) to serve in their communities.18 husband schools were established, where the programme trained 900 community stakeholders on GBV, SRH including FP, positive parenting, positive spousal relationships and other related topics for positive social norms change. The capacity of 90 MAPES were strengthened which enabled them to promote SRHR, Family Planning and provided support to GBV referral mechanisms.

**Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:** *(350 word limit)*

**Under Outputs 1.1 and 1.2**

UNDP ensured activities including conflict resolution, civic education, counselling, and sporting/social activities reflected the project’s commitment to gender equality and women empowerment. A total of 194 female Y@R participated in trainings, dialogues on youth and duty-bearers and other capacity building activities. The equal inclusion of male and female beneficiaries was prioritised through the establishment of community and youth structures. Creating the conditions for the increased role of women in decision making roles, resulted in women being elected to 50% of leadership roles (72 out of 144), while the project continues to promote the inclusion of young women in decision-making at various levels. Women were also involved and participated in the project’s sports and social activities.

**Activities under Output 1.3**

FINE-SL was involved in activities using the male involvement strategy to contribute to the achievement of the outcome. The project established clear institutional arrangements necessary for effective implementation by government and all stakeholders at all levels.  This was achieved through the facilitation and signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOUs) giving full access to FINE-SL to operate in the implementing communities with the full support of community stakeholders. Increased ownership of the project was realised through policy dialogues targeting   interventions at chiefdom level involving over 500 key stakeholders and gatekeepers (of culture) among the communities of Tonkolili and Kenema District, specifically on GBV prevention, SRHR and dangers of drug abuse linking the effect to health and social cohesion. Through enhanced information, notable changes were released in the number of community members that accessed SRHR services.

The project was able to train 60 (M34/F25) Correctional Service Staff on Gender Equality, Gender dynamics and Gender International and National Frameworks. The training was able to increase their knowledge and understanding on gender equality, Gender need, assessing gender gaps and relationship between masculinities and violence in correctional facilities. Also, the project supported the training of 120 (M115/F5) inmates on gender equality, national laws including on sexual penetration, gender and domestic violence among others. The training incentivised behavioural change and communications which has contributed to a change in perception of inmates in their respective communities.

**Using the Project Results Framework as per the approved project document or any amendments- provide an update on the achievement of key outcome indicators for Outcome 1 in the table below**

* If the outcome has more than 3 indicators, select the 3 most relevant ones with most relevant progress to highlight.
* Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation. Provide gender and age disaggregated data. (3000 characters max per entry)

| **Outcome Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator progress to Date** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator 1.a**  % of youth at risk targeted by the project who believe that their voice is heard and they feel more respected in their communities | 55% total  (49% female  58% male) | 70% (F: 60%; M: 70%) | 86.5% (F: 86.1%, M: 89.8%)  (project evaluation/endline) |  |
| **Indicator 1.b**  Number of youths at risk targeted by the project included in decision-making mechanisms at local level | 34% total  (17% female  45% male) | 50% of youth targeted by the project (F: 35%; M: 15%) | 90.3% (F: 91.6%, M: 89.4%)  As defined by often or sometimes participating in meetings  (project evaluation/endline) |  |

Please list up to 5 of most relevant outputs for outcome 1 and for each output, and using the project results framework, provide an update on the progress made against 3 most relevant output indicators

**Output 1.1: Civic education and counselling are promoted to enable the reintegration of youth at risk into families and communities and their participation in decision-making processes.**

| **Output Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator progress to Date** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator 1.1.1**  % of youth at risk who believe that use of violence is never justified to resolve conflicts and achieve political objectives. | 13% total  10% female  15% male | 80% (F: 80%; M: 70%) | 88.2% (no difference in responses by gender)  (project evaluation/endline) | . |
| Indicator 1.1.2 Number of youth at risk who undergo counselling and recover from substance abuse habits | 0 currently undergoing counselling  39% of youth at risk have been sensitized on the risks of drug abuse | 70% (F: 70%; M: 50%) | 336 beneficiaries (M: 206; F: 130) |  |

**Output 1.2: Capacity of District and Chiefdom Youth Councils (DYC and CYC) and local youth groups in the targeted districts strengthened to promote youth leadership and influence district and local decision-making processes that affect youth at risk.**

| **Output Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator progress to Date** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator 1.2.1**  Number of youth at risk who become members of local youth groups and participate in DYC and CYC activities | 2 individuals are members of the actual DYC/CYC  42% of youth at risk participate sometimes or often in DYC/CYC activities | 50% | 8 (Male 6, Female 2) |  |
| **Indicator 1.2.2**  Dialogue forums discuss and address risk analysis with the participation of youth at risk | 0 | 4 (1 per chiefdom) | 16 dialogues sessions (2 per chiefdom) 439 in attendance (Male 247, Female 192) | . |
| **Indicator 1.2.3**  % of youth at risk who believe that structural barriers to their reintegration are removed and feel safe to participate in communities’ mechanisms and activities | 59% total  61% female  58% male | 80% | 98.6% (comparable responses by gender)  (project evaluation/endline) |  |

**Output 1.3:** **Increased awareness among key stakeholders and youth at risk in targeted communities on women and girls rights, with increased male involvement to reduce GBV**

| **Output Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator progress to Date** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator 1.3.1**  % of youth (male and female) involved in youth clubs who state that GBV in all its forms (physical, economic, psychological and sexual) is unacceptable/ a violation of human rights | 25% total  17% female  29% Male | 70% total | 81.4% (F 83.3%, M 80%)  (project evaluation/endline) | NONE |
| **Indicator 1.3.2**  % increased knowledge among beneficiaries on GBV and, SRH | 67% total  34% female  84% male | 40% (F: 40%; M:40%) | 99%  (project evaluation/endline) |  |
| **Indicator 1.3.3**  % improved perception and attitudes among beneficiaries towards Gender and GBV | N/A | 40% (F: 40%; M:40%) | 81.4%  (project evaluation/endline) | Proxy indicator: 81.4% per cent of Y@R stated that it was never acceptable to beat a woman  The vast majority (94.8 per cent) of project beneficiaries said they would report a case of GBV if they ever experienced or witnessed one. |

**Outcome 2:** National and local institutions improve their response to the needs of youth at risk

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress:**

**Progress summary:** *(350 word limit)*

The project through Sierra Leone Correctional Services (SLCS) developed and facilitated an Earning Scheme Skills Enhancement support for the 4 selected correctional industries (tailoring, carpentry, agriculture and bakery) across 3 targeted correctional facilities (Kenema, Mafanta and Magburaka) as a capacity building exercise for Youth at risk 100 (M90/F10) inmates. The project also ensured that two structures were supported with minor refurbishments in the two Project District to ensure safe storage of training equipment and space for the training program. 40 correctional facility staff were trained in case management, psychosocial skills and integration of inmates into their communities after their prison term. Center managers have improved in their Case Managers skills and dealing with inmates that need mental and psychological support and are now able to support at least 950 inmates that need assistance. The project also supported the conduct of Judicial Week in through the office of the Chief Justice. The exercise was able to hear inmates’ cases in lengthy pre-trial detention in collaboration with Legal Aid Board (LAB), the Judiciary and the office of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice in the two project Districts. During the exercise a total of 918 cases were reviewed. At the end of the exercise one hundred and seventy-seven (177) inmates were discharged, sixty-nine (69) were convicted and ninety (90) inmates were granted bail nation-wide.

UNDP through CARL has made progress on the review of the amended CPA of 1965 and the SLCS Act of 2014. Both legislation has been reviewed and it are expected to be submitted to the new parliament for debate and passing. The reviewed CPA addressed the suspended sentences, parole, alternative sentences, and limitation of the powers of the police to arrest for certain minor offenses and more. Hopes are high that the law will be considered for enactment before the general elections in 2023.

**Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:** *(350 word limit)*

10 female inmates were selected for the life skills initiative- as per the project targets and reflecting the gender balance of inmates – but the project has left room for more women to be included, once they enter the Correctional Centres as offenders. It is ensured that female inmates selected for the trainings benefit from skills initiatives based on their own preferences, for example, hairdressing, bead-weaving and tailoring. Gender awareness is included in the life skills trainings to be rolled out to both male and female inmates.

The empowerment of correctional officers has included female officers (21 out of 38 trainees) as equal participants in capacity building workshops, and implementation of program activities in and around correctional centers, while the training workshop for justice and security institutions to improve their responsive skills in addressing youth-at-risk issues prioritized the involvement and contribution of female participants across all institutions, including female Y@R representatives. To highlight and improve the response to female youth at risk by the various institution and actors, gender is included as a key point of discussion through workshops and post-training monitoring of action points, to ensure that improved youth-responsive *and* gender-sensitive strategies are employed and that gender-specific challenges affecting the relationship between the Y@R and local security institutions are addressed.

**Using the Project Results Framework as per the approved project document or any amendments- provide an update on the achievement of key outcome indicators for Outcome 2 in the table below**

* If the outcome has more than 3 indicators, select the 3 most relevant ones with most relevant progress to highlight.
* Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation. Provide gender and age disaggregated data. (3000 characters max per entry)

| **Outcome Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator progress to Date** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Indicator 2.a  # of targeted local institutions (SLCS, SLP, LPPBs, Paramount Chief Councils) that adopt improved procedures to ensure youth responsive approaches to detention, reintegration, and rehabilitation | 2 | All institutions involved in the project (correctional centers, LPPBs, FSUs, SLP, etc.) | Seven (7) local security institutions and community structures (65 participants) |  |
| Indicator 2.b  % of youth at risk who believe that their rights are respected  Changed to % of youth state that they have experienced unfair treatment or discrimination | 78% |  | 55.8%  (project evaluation/endline) | In the endline evaluation, the indicator was rephrased to ask if beneficiaries (youth at risk) experienced unfair treatment or discrimination – the inverse of asking whether youth at risk believe their rights are respected (the baseline indicator has been similarly inverted from 22% to 78%  . |

**How many Outputs does Outcome 2 have? 2**

**Please list up to 5 of most relevant outputs for outcome 2 and for each output, and using the project results framework, provide an update on the progress made against 3 most relevant output indicators**

**Output 2.1:** Capacity of local institutions, Correctional Services, Family Support Unit (FSUs) of the Sierra Leone Police (SLP), andLocal Police Partnership Boards (LPPBs), is enhanced in human rights, rule of law, negotiation and youth-sensitive approaches to improve their engagement with youth at risk.

| **Output Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator progress to Date** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Indicator 2.1.1  Targeted correctional centers implement the Earning Scheme Policy | 2 | 3 | All 3 Correctional Service Facilities targeted by the project in Kenema, Magburaka and Mafanta have implemented the Earning Scheme policy. | The project through the Correctional Service has engaged the respective banks in Kenema and Tonkolili district for the opening of accounts for 100 inmates across the two target districts for the Earning Scheme component. |
| Indicator 2.1.2  Number of youth-at-risk deprived of liberty with improved life skills | 60 (M: 55; F:5) | 90 (M: 80; F:10) | 100 (M: 90; F: 10) inmates in the Sierra Leone Correctional Service were engaged in life skills training. The curriculum was reviewed in line with the national life skills curriculum and adapted to the targeted project youth.  Upon finalization, Correctional Service Centre and Industrial managers were trained using the new life skills curriculum. The respective inmates who are also undergoing the vocational skills training program. |  |

**Output 2.2:** SLP, Magistrate Courts and Correctional Services in project targeted areas have strengthened capacities and youth responsive legal frameworks to monitor detention conditions and support decongestion of overcrowded facilities.

| **Output Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator progress to Date** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Indicator 2.2.3  Number of cases resolved by the prison courts (virtual courts) in the project areas | 32 resolved in 2019 in Kenema CC (29 cases involved Males; 3 cases involved females) | 250 cases with 65% case conclusions (M involved: 80%; F involved 20%) | A total of 918 cases were reviewed. At the end of the exercise one hundred and seventy-seven (177) inmates were discharged, sixty-nine (69) were convicted and ninety (90) inmates were granted bail nation-wide including the project Districts. | N/A |
| Indicator 2.2.4  Amended Correctional Act 2014 and Criminal Procedure Act | The CPA and the Correctional Acts are currently being reviewed. UNDP is doing advocacy for submission of both draft Acts to Parliament by December 2021/Early 2022 | Submit Amended Acts to Attorney General and Parliament by Dec-2021 or Latest March 2022  2 legislations enacted in Parliament | So far, the CPA has been reviewed, received approval from the Ministry of Justice to proceed with tabling to parliament for passing after the new parliament.  Similarly, the SLCS have been reviewed with support from CARL. | **N/A** |

**Outcome 3:** Social cohesion strengthened and youth at risk socially and economically empowered to meaningfully reintegrate into their families and communities

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress:**

**Progress summary:** *(350 word limit)*

***Output 3.1: Social cohesion and peaceful coexistence promoted by supporting joint socio-economic initiatives that involve youth at risk and community members***

A participatory needs assessment and activity prioritization with all 18 targeted communities and Y@R groups was conducted in order to determine the joint socio-economic community initiatives to be supported. The joint community infrastructure projects (5 barrays, 8 rice mills, 4 youth centres, and 1 market structure) supported under Output 3.1 are completed or will be completed by the end of April, 2024.

The management structure of community facilities incorporates the active involvement of youth at risk. Each community infrastructure is overseen by a five-member executive team, comprising three individuals chosen by the community and two representatives from the youth at risk group. This composition aims to foster accountability for any proceeds generated by these facilities, ensuring equitable distribution of benefits among all community members. The facilities not only serve the 418 youth at risk groups but also extend their benefits to the broader community and neighbouring areas. The inclusive approach seeks to maximize the positive impact of these facilities on both individuals and communities.

Based on the above, the Y@R benefited from the infrastructural development in the following ways:

1. Out of the 418 youth, 48 Y@R were trained to support the building of the facilities,
2. 40 Y@R gained shrift term employment opportunity during the building process,
3. Based on the community bylaws, concession and priority are always given to them if they are organising any social function,
4. 35 Y@R are members of the local community for decision making and provided them decision making and leadership opportunities.

All communities have formulated and enforced bylaws on the management of their various facilities, and experience-sharing sessions involving 180 community representatives and district stakeholders were held in each chiefdom on challenges and best practices to ensure sustainability of the infrastructure and equipment provided by the project.

***Output 3.2: Youth at risk have increased capacity and are empowered to generate their livelihoods.***

Based on a participatory assessment in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Y@R groups prioritized the following livelihood activities to be supported by the project: Livestock rearing–poultry/small ruminants (14 groups); cassava value chain - cultivation and processing (2 groups); groundnut value chain–cultivation and processing (1group); and IVS rice production(1 group). Agricultural inputs were procured for distribution in accordance with the agricultural seasons. Y@R groups were trained on Gender & Livelihood and technical agronomic and business management training were rolled out in a ‘hands-on’ manner in line with the Junior Farmer Field School (JFFS) approach in connection with the supply of inputs. Village savings and loans associations (VLSAs) was established among the 18 Y@R groups, and they are on independent fund-raising for the group development activities and promoting social cohesion among group members.

The project established and supported 18 youth at-risk livelihoods groups, which included 15 related to agriculture and livestock .Of these 15 groups, eight are dedicated to poultry farming, seven concentrate on processing activities, while three focus on small ruminant farming. The agricultural Y@R groups are managing their farms using improved agricultural methods. 44 hectares were cultivated (maize, cassava, potato, groundnut), and the crops performed very well (Satisfactory yield was reported throughout the project implementation phase). Shelter structures for poultry and goats were constructed. Eight poultry production groups manage 500 hybrid birds each and have been trained including the provision of assorted vaccines for treating the birds. Furthermore, the remaining seven processing groups (bread, cassava, rice and groundnuts processing groups) were supported with inputs to carry on with their processing activities. Further mentorship relationships have been established for all 18 Y@R groups. The formalization of the 18 Y@R groups as FBOs and setting up of accounts with local community banks was facilitated to support their various businesses. And supported provided are now used during subsequent cropping season supporting their livelihood activities.

**Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:** *(350 word limit)*

The project involves 46% young females across all components, including the livelihood component. During the initial participatory selection of livelihood activities the groups wanted to embark on, the equal relevance and participation of women and men were a main criteria.

Throughout all livelihood activities, the female beneficiaries are fully involved with at least 50% participation in trainings, exchange and learning visits, etc.

According to findings from recent monitoring missions, the female beneficiaries are fully and equally involved in the various livelihood activities. Generally, the cooperation among male and beneficiaries around the farming work is reported to be inclusive and cordial, with some gender division of the farm work reflecting the usual farming culture in the country.

Female beneficiaries in particular seemed to have benefited from the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) activities, while some also used DSA and transport refunds from trainings and learning visits to start up petty business activities to sustain themselves. They are also benefiting from the main group livelihood activities yield income.

During the business management trainings, the agri-business structures were established with the groups to ensure that women were included in the executive functions (e.g. as marketing managers, financial secretaries, etc.).

FAO supported the strengthening of young women’s position within the youth structures to ensure that they continue to be included after the end of the project. This was facilitated through experience-sharing and coaching sessions for the female beneficiaries, linkages to other female farmers in the target areas for mentorship, and engagement of the Y@R groups, and community stakeholders as part of the project exit strategies.

| **Outcome Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator progress to Date** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator 3.a**  % of youth who report increased self-esteem and enhanced self-reliance outside of crime activities  *Revised formulation:*  *% of youth who consider engaging in crime activities for economic purposes* | 84% total  87% female  83% male | 45% (M/F) | 97%  97% of project beneficiaries affirmed that young people are playing positive roles in the community  (project evaluation/endline) | It was noted in the baseline study for this project “that presently [youth at risk] YAR to a large extent rely on crime activities, proxy measures of self-esteem and self-reliance outside of crime activities cannot be measured. An alternative formulation which has been used to measure the baseline is hereby suggested” (FAO, UNDP, and UNFPA 2021, p. 41). However, the endline consultants suggest a better measure of this indicator is: perceptions that young people are currently playing productive roles in the community, as it more broadly captures feelings of youth self-esteem and empowerment. Thus, it has chosen to reformulate the indicator according to this measure, as per the figure below. |
| **Indicator 3.b**  % of community and family members who believe that youth at risk contribute to productive life of their communities and families through the livelihood assistance provided | 47% | 80% | **92.6%**  (project evaluation/endline) |  |
| **Indicator 3.c**  % of community and family members who believe that levels of violence committed by gangs/cliques in the project zones has decreased | 45% | 65% | **77.6%**  (project evaluation/endline) | Note that the project was not able to target all the youths-at-risk associated with cliques/gangs in the target area, and a number of such youths remain who might continue to engage in crime and violence.  The Y@R beneficiaries do in many communities engage in outreach and counselling (e.g. on substance abuse) with other non-beneficiaries youths on their own initiative.  All beneficiaries, stakeholders and district government stakeholders are pleading to the partners to reach out to more youths. |

**Output 3.1** Social cohesion and peaceful coexistence promoted by supporting joint socio-economic initiatives that involve youth at risk and community members

| **Output Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator progress to Date** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator 3.1.1**  Number of joint socio-economic initiatives promoted for social cohesion, community reconciliation and peaceful coexistence | 2 | 10 | **10**  Five barriers, four rice mills, 1 market structure are completed. In addition a further 8 rice mills are expected to be completed and handed over by April/May 2024.  Communities (including the youths) report that the planning and implementation of these activities has been a good opportunity for them to come together towards a common purpose, and that interaction is positive and peaceful. | There have been some delays in the construction activities, but finalization and handing over of community infrastructure is expected to take place in April 2024 due to late start of the last phase of the construction. |
| **Indicator 3.1.2**  % of youth at risk who feel a sense of belonging to their communities | 80% total  79% female  80% male | 99% (M/F) | **98.6%** |  |

**Output 3.2**

Youth at risk have increased capacity and are empowered to generate their livelihoods.

| **Output Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator progress to Date** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicator 3.2.1**  Number of youth at risk trained in innovative practices, Good Agronomic practices (GAP), technologies for Climate Smart Resilience farming and enterprise development | 0 | 300 (M: 250; F: 50) | In summary, the following trainings have been rolled out during the project implementation:  418 Y@R trained on Gender & Livelihood  418 Y@R trained on nutrition and food-based dietary guidelines  418 Y@R trained on VSLA  356 Y@R trained on GAP for crop production  418 Y@R trained on basic business management  191 Y@R trained on post-harvest management for maize and poultry feed production  30 Y@R trained on cassava processing; 20 Y@R trained on groundnut processing and management  24 Y@R trained on post-harvest management for rice  275 Y@R Trained on Poultry and animal husbandry management  49 Y@R trained on bakery management  256 Y@R trained in advance business management skills. | All the trainings are completed within the project implementation period. |
| Indicator 3.2.2  Number of youth at risk groups and Junior Farmer Field Schools (JFFS) established and attached to existing Farmer Base Organizations (FBO) for mentorship. | 18 YAR claim to belong to farm groups. 1 Youth farm group in Magburaka (Tonkolili) | 4 youth groups (30% female participation) | 18 Y@R groups have been established and are being trained in cooperation with the MAF structures in line with the JFFS approach.  18 Y@R groups have been registered as FBOs with MAF and local councils and have established bank accounts.  Mentorship relationships have been established between all 18 Y@R groups and other FBOs/businesses, while linkages are facilitated on an on-going basis to more actors for business exchange relationships.  Short-term apprenticeships were organized with 55 youths from 14 groups and learning visits to private sector entities conducted for 67 youths. | Note that mentorship relations are being facilitated not only to other FBOs in the target areas, but to existing businesses in the related livelihood sectors – depending on what is deemed most relevant to the specific agri-business operations of the various groups. |
| Indicator 3.2.4  % of youths at risk who believe they will continue to use the newly acquired skills to make a living | 0  (n/a – post hoc verification) | 70% | According to qualitative interviews with the beneficiaries, a majority (up to 80%) are fully engaged in the groups’ selected livelihood activities. Beneficiaries in most groups express a high level of confidence that they will be able to sustain their activities and generate incomes for themselves.  65% of beneficiaries have since the beginning of the project started various additional agricultural and livelihood activities on their own complementing the activities supported by the project, using new skills and knowledge and in some instances VSLA loans to start up their new activities. | Final quantitative data will be collected at the end of project evaluation, |

**Please repeat the outcome level and output level reporting for each outcome and its respective outputs**

**PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

Is the project planning any significant events in the next 6 months (eg. national dialogues, youth congresses, film screenings, etc.) Yes

If yes, please state how many, and for each, provide the approximate date of the event and a brief description, including its key objectives, target audience and location (if known)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Event Description*** | ***Tentative Date*** | ***Location*** | ***Target Audience*** | ***Event Objectives (150 word limit)*** |
| Handing over ceremonies for community infrastructure | December, 2023 | Kholifa Ruwala, Yoni, Nongowa and Dama chiefdoms | Community members, beneficiaries, district stakeholders (MAF, local councils), MOYA, MAF | Ceremonies will be held at chiefdom level to hand over of community infrastructures to the target communities for use, and do final endorsement and signing of the bylaws developed for Operation & Management. |
| Handover of motor bikes and tricycles | December, 2023 | Kenema/Tonkolili | Community members, beneficiaries, district stakeholders (MAF, local councils), MOYA, MAF | Planned in collaboration with key project stakeholders to support market linkages for beneficiaries. |

**Human Impact**

This section is about the human impact of the project. Please state the number of key stakeholders of the project, and for each, please briefly describe:

1. The challenges/problem they faced prior to the project implementation
2. The impact of the project on their lives
3. Provide, where possible, a quote or testimonial from a representative of each stakeholder group

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Key stakeholder | What were the challenges/problem they faced prior to the project implementation? (350 words max) | What has been the impact of the project on their lives (350 words max) | Provide, where possible, a quote or testimonial from a representative of each stakeholder group (350 words max) |
| Hangha Town/  Community | Hangha community used to be considered one of Kenema district’s most violent communities – it was seriously plagued by clique/gang violence, land disputes and drug abuse among youth. As a result of this high level of conflict and violence, community people moved to neighbouring communities, and there were not major developmental activities taking place in the community for a long time. There was serious distrust that between the youth and the community leaders: The youth believed that the leaders take money for development in the community and use it for themselves, while the leaders of the community believed that the youth were unserious and involved in irresponsible activities and generally acting disrespectful and uncontrollable. Those were the factors leading to the selection of Hangha as a target community for the Youth at Risk project. | From the onset of the project, implementing partners conducted community and stakeholder engagements and dialogues in a bid to unearth the causes of the various issues faced by the youth and respective communities, and to pitch the intervention strategy together with all the stakeholders. Following several engagements such as trainings, awareness raising and husband schools, the community began experiencing reduced incidences of violence; gang violence has drastically reduced, while GBV has dropped to a very minimal level.  The youths are increasingly involved in decision-making and dispute resolution mechanisms; and have become more socially responsible and are now actively working towards their own positive development.  Beneficiary youths are now involved in encouraging their peers to abandon violent and criminal ways of living and be more productive members of their communities. | Town Chief: “This community was greatly terrorised by youths who were wayward and had no respect for customs and traditions. I as chief found it difficult to stay in the community because of all the violence caused by the youths over one land or the other. Now I can safely say this Youth at Risk project has been a blessing both to the community and to our children because we now enjoying absolute peace and our children are now working actively to develop themselves.”  M.K (former gang leader): “I used to be highly feared in this community and on my command, we can destroy anything but because of this project I have come to realise it was not the right way to live. Now I am a positive youth for development and I am now helping other youths to discover themselves and be positively transformed.” |
| H.G., female beneficiary, 24 years old, Giema, Kenema district | H.G.: “I was fortunate to be selected as beneficiary of the project in May 2021. At this time of my life, I was living on my own in a unconventional way, my family and community disapproved of my life style because I was selling my body for survival travelling from district to district. I was doing that because I had no option for my livelihood.” | H.G: “The PBF Youth at Risk intervention have made a significant impact in my life, I have been to platform and interact with personalities I only dreamed of in my life. I never saw agriculture as a lucrative business, but with the support provided to us with trainings ranging from good agronomic practices, harvest and post-harvest management practices, garrie processing, and basic business management practices. Our group was also supported with agricultural inputs to embark on cassava farming, garrie processing production and other cassava value chain production equipment.  Additionally, I have been fortunate to visit Pujehun Growth Center to learn about garrie production, myself and other group members have gone for apprenticeship programs to understudy businesses that has been successful in the cassava value chain production.” | H.G: “I am not the same person that joined the project last year, I am now a well-respected woman in my family and my community, I am consulted within my family and my community to make developmental decision that benefits all. Presently, I am a role model among my peers as I am the chairlady of the Giama Dama YAR group and I am a businesswoman.” |

In addition to the stakeholder specific impact described above, please use this space to describe any additional human impact that the project has had. (650 word limit):

The project has had positive impact on the social cohesion in the target communities; reducing the levels of crime and violence associated with the Y@R and cliques/gangs as well as anti-social and risky behaviours (substance use, verbal aggression and fighting, gambling).

Youth at risk participation in community decision making fora, including CYCs and DYCs, has increased from a baseline-level of 4% to 38% for those often participating and up from 34% to 52% for youth at risk “sometimes” participating. Furthermore, the evaluation found that 96.6% of beneficiaries agreed that young people play productive roles in their communities, an increase from the baseline level of 69%. Interestingly, community members affirmed this positive trend, with 92.6% agreeing to the statement, an increase of more than 30% on the baseline figure.

Community members also perceived a downward trend in violence committed by gangs and cliques. Approximately 78% of community members agreed that such violence had decreased, compared to 45% at the baseline.

Additionally, the human impacts are note-worthy, and the level of community support and buy-in for the project and in particular the motivation and willingness to change on the part of the beneficiaries has been extremely encouraging. Since the beginning of the project, before substantive activities were implemented, beneficiaries did express similar feelings of being ‘seen’, being granted an opportunity and suddenly having a range of actors listening to them and counselling them – this ignited behavioural changes from the onset – refraining from crime, fighting and disrespectful attitudes and reducing on substance abuse – positive changes which were then later on further accelerated by the civic education trainings and psycho-education sessions on substance abuse.

92% of the 418 youth beneficiaries who were members of cliques and gangs, drug abusers and prostitution rings from 18 communities in Kenema district and Tonkolili District have established community livelihoods and are increasingly viewed as productive members of society.

On the individual level, the Y@R beneficiaries report a higher level of well-being and lower stress levels as they have abandoned a range of risky and unhealthy practices associated with clique/gang lifestyle such as substance abuse, physical fights and commercial sex work. As they are now more involved in community activities, beneficiaries report feeling respected and included rather than enduring the stigma they were used to; and many indicate to feel that their lives have drastically changed; expressing a greater sense of motivation and self-esteem.

Quotes from beneficiaries from last joint monitoring visit in September:

“We are working together now and they are listening to us” (Loppa).

“Before they were pointing fingers at us, but now they admire us.” “The new paramount chief treats us like daughters and call us for community meetings.” (Female beneficiary, Mile 91)

“They used to call us street girls, now they call us by our names.” (Female beneficiary, Old Town)

“I am now seeing things I didn’t use to. I am so proud now to sit together with people here. In community issues, they think of me, we make plans together.” (Male beneficiary, Mile 91)

The livelihood component has further contributed to changing Y@R’s image in the communities and reduced their dependency on risky and/or illegal activities to make ends meet. As the livelihood activities progressed and became more tangible, it further enhanced the confidence, positive self-image and sense of pride among many beneficiaries by seeing the visible proof of their efforts - for example, the 8 communities cultivating maize for poultry feed production were able to cultivate relatively large and well-performing field with improved varieties, which were genuinely admired by community stakeholders and district MAF officers alike.

Quotes from beneficiaries from last joint monitoring visit in September:

“Now, when I go to the farm and see the improvement, it helps me to reduce stress. Before, they didn’t think of us as anything; now we are invited into decision-making. I am so proud to be in the community as a changed man.” (Male beneficiary, Mile 91)

“We are not in the street anymore; we concentrate on what we are doing on the farm. When we come home at night, we are tired, and we just help our parents.” “Now, we have people to advise us, to encourage us to go off the street.” (Female beneficiaries, Makeni Road)

A young male beneficiary was one of the most violent young men in the Magburuka environs and was responsible for some of the most violent situation in the town immediately after the first training in Magburuka walked up to FINE-SL M&E and vowed that he was going to drop every violent activity that he had been a part of and that he will stop taking drugs and focus on developing his life. The next day he came to the training a totally transformed man outwardly that he had to introduce himself again for the M&E officer to recognise him. He had cut off his dreadlocks, cleaned up and very optimistic towards life. He is now a commercial bike rider and is doing very well.

**You can also upload up to 3 ﬁles in various formats (picture ﬁles, power point, pdf, video, etc..) to illustrate the human impact of the project and 3 links to online resources (OPTIONAL)**

**UNDP**

**UNFPA**

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**FAO**

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| --- | --- |
| **Monitoring:** Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (*350 word limit)*  A monitoring visit led by the Hon. Minister of Youth Affairs with the Hon. Deputy Minister of Agriculture with the participation of the Heads of Agencies from FAO, UNDP and UNFPA to both districts was done during this reporting period, during which the delegation interacted with both beneficiaries and communities and visited construction sites, farms and the Crisis Drop-In Centre in Kenema. Report from the mission was shared with PBSO.  A detailed joint monitoring visit with the technical team together with focal persons from MAF, Ministry of Gender, the PPRC, NACCED, NAYCOM, district councils, local youth structures and implementing partners Caritas and FINE was done, engaging beneficiaries and stakeholders in in-depth discussion on project progress, impacts, challenges and sustainability issues. A detailed report is available.  Routine monitoring visits to all the project communities and Y@R groups are done on a weekly basis by the district/chiefdom youth structures and district MAF extension structures to follow up on any issues relating to the group dynamics and closely supervise their on-going livelihood activities. During peak agricultural activity periods (e.g. planting, harvesting) intensive monitoring is done by the MAF district officers in collaboration with the FAO field-based agronomist.  Monthly monitoring visits are conducted with district stakeholders (e.g. from the district councils, and district MAF offices) to the project communities.  Technical missions to monitor construction activities are conducted frequently (03 times during this reporting period) with the FAO supervisory engineer together with the MAF civil engineer. Infrastructure activities are monitored on a continuous basis by the Clerks of Works employed by implementing partners Caritas and Caritas Makeni, and by the community construction monitors (03 per community) trained by the project. | Do outcome indicators have baselines? yes  If yes, please provide a brief description  A baseline study conducted during the project’s inception phase collected quantitative data for all the outcome and output indicators.  Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? yes  If yes, please provide a brief description (350 word limit) Click or tap here to enter text.  During this reporting period, the following participatory data collection tools have been piloted:   * **Youth Participation Monitoring** **Tool** administered by the Y@R groups themselves (supported by Caritas and DYCs/CYCs), aiming to capture group internal and external activities. The findings are used to report on project indicators under Outcome 1; while the process encourages the beneficiaries to reflect on the level and nature of their participation in various community activities – decision-making, social activities, community development, etc. * **Community Conflict Tracker** administered by DYCs/CYCs and community peace ambassadors (who have all been trained on conflict mapping and mitigation), aiming to identify on-going or potential issues of conflict and tension relating to the group and/or the project activities. The aim is to track issues and follow up actions to ensure that potential conflicts are not left unaddressed. * **Data collection on reintegration:** A group-based data collection exercise was done with all Y@R groups with the aim to quantify positive changes previously reported on qualitatively which can be perceived to be proxy indicators for reintegration and ‘belonging’; capturing relationships with families, resumption of educational activities, and new livelihood activities outside of those supported by the project. Findings will be captured under Outcome 3 indicators. |
| **Evaluation:** Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period?  no | Evaluation budget (response required): $50,000  If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations *(350 word limit)*:  The final evaluation has been done and was managed by the FAO regional office with full involvement of all partner agencies and the GoSL. The Terms of Reference was developed and circulated for inputs, including from PBSO. The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the DAC criteria under the lead of an international consultant with technical, contextual and peace-building experience. The lead consultant worked together with a national consultant, who supported the evaluation with local knowledge and language competencies. An end-line survey integrated in the overall evaluation, collecting data on the indicators measured at baseline to assess project performance. |
| **Catalytic effects (financial):** Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project since it started.  FAO, UNFPA and UNDP have allocated agency own funding to support additional consolidation and cascading of activities and results from the PBF-funded implementation phase especially during the no cost extension period. | Name of funder: Amount:  UNDP-TRAC $ 235,000  FAO $200,000  UNFPA $37,500 |
| **Catalytic Eﬀect (non-ﬁnancial):** Has the project enabled or created a larger or longer‐term peacebuilding change to occur?  ***Please select***  No catalytic eﬀect  Some catalytic eﬀect  Signiﬁcant catalytic eﬀect  Very Signiﬁcant catalytic eﬀect  Don't Know  Too early to tell | If relevant, please describe how the project has had a (non-ﬁnancial) catalytic eﬀect i.e. ways in which the project has supported the expansion or creation of programs and policies supporting peace, both within and outside the UN system (*Please limit your response to 350 words)* |
| **Sustainability:** Does the project have an explicit exit strategy?Please describe any steps that have been taken to ensure the sustainability of peacebuilding gains beyond the duration of the project (350 word limit)  Several comprehensive monitoring exercises have been conducted during this reporting period, with a view to identifying key prospects and challenges for sustainability. Exit strategies to be implemented during the recently approved No Cost Extension have been drafted for all activities and results areas and are presently under discussion among the partner agencies and partner organizations and institutions.  Under outcome 1, behavioural changes on the part of Y@R and communities will be sustained mostly through the established structures at community level such as MAPEs, peace ambassadors and youth leaders, who will continue to support the Y@R and mediate their improved relationship with communities at large, while the CYCs/DYCs will continue to monitor Y@R issues in the target communities. Observing the level of reintegration and increased inclusion of Y@R in decision-making mechanisms and other community activities, it is expected that these impacts will be sustainable without project-facilitated dialogue sessions. MAPEs have been assigned to the various implementing communities to ensure monitoring and referral of GBV and SRHR cases in the implementing communities. Community byelaws that ensure no drug or gang activities are allowed in the communities have been enacted and Lead Fathers who are supposed to be agents of positive parenting and peace in the communities have graduated from the husband schools. Each of these communities have at least 50 Husband school graduates which ensures a more positive perception of gender.  Under outcome 2, the project partners are working directly with the correctional centers in the two districts, with project activities centering on strengthening capacities of officers and institutions to continue to implement the Earning Scheme Policy and Virtual Prison Courts utilizing the input and equipment provided by the project. With regards to the CPA and SLCS Act, the project is hopeful that they will be passed before the end of the project, otherwise UNDP will continue to support advocacy activities through its other partners/activities.  Under outcome 3, the sustainability of agricultural livelihood activities is sought through the organization and consolidation of the Y@R groups as small enterprises with business plans developed jointly with all groups, who have been linked up with relevant market actors and supply chains, to ease the continued running of their operations. All groups have established mentorship relationships with existing FBOs and/or private sector entities relevant to their chosen livelihood activities. 18 Y@R groups have been formalized as FBOs, which will ensure a continued linkage with the MAF and access to technical services and agricultural inputs distributed through the ministry’s structures. | |
| **Other:** Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? *(350 word limit).*  FINE-SL needs institutional capacity building in every aspect as well as institutional support. The organisation is also in dire need of logistics to facilitate and support effective programme management and ease of movement for monitoring and evaluation. Staff turnover is very high at FINE-SL due to lack of institutional support especially in terms of incentives to field staff. The organisation is solely project based and therefore has lost valuable institutional knowledge when funds are not available for project. | |

1. Of the original 421 selected participants, 402 youth at risk participated in training on civic education, peacebuilding and gender equality, while 418 participated in livelihoods training. The difference is explained by the availability of participants at that time. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)