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 **PBF PROJECT progress report**

**COUNTRY:** Sierra Leone

**TYPE OF REPORT: semi-annual, annual OR FINAL:**

**SEMI-ANNUAL**

**YEAR of report:** 2020

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| **Project Title: Mitigating localized resource-based conflicts and increasing community resilience in Pujehun and Moyamba districts of Sierra Leone****Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway: PRF** 00117938 |
| **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 WFP (Convening Agency)****RUNO UNDP** |
| **Date of first transfer: 01 October 2019****Project end date: 01 October 2021** **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):** **Recipient Organization Amount** WFP $ 1,664,000UNDP $ 1,336,000      $            $       Total: $ 3,000,000 Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: UNDP 55%; WFP 47%\*ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE\***Gender-responsive Budgeting:**Indicate dollar amount from the project document to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment: $ 1,839,268Amount expended to date on activities focused on gender equality or women’s empowerment: $652,416 |
| **Project Gender Marker: GM2****Project Risk Marker: Medium****Project PBF focus area: 2.3 Conflict Prevention/Management** |
| **Report preparation:**Project report prepared by: WFP and UNDPProject report approved by: Did PBF Secretariat review the report:  |

***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.*

**PART 1: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS**

Briefly outline the **status of the project** in terms of implementation cycle, including whether preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (i.e. contracting of partners, staff recruitment, etc.) (1500 character limit):

Baseline report formulated to define pre-project situation and targets; project launched by Office of the Vice President (OVP); project management structures (Steering and Technical Committees) established in December 2019. Under outcome 1: partnerships formalized with OVP, Moyamba and Pujehun District Councils and Fambul Tok. Existing Inclusive Development and Peace Committees in target districts enhanced to include women/youth at chiefdom level, private sector and CSO representation; A third Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) meeting held in October 2020 in Moyamba District, inclusive Grievance Redress Committees (GRC) established and functional across four targeted chiefdoms; Land Degradation Assessment conducted..

Partnerships with Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) formalised to support women and youth engagement in livelihood activities. 1,857 women and youth working in 31 farmer groups received agricultural tools, training in improved practices and 60 days Cash Based Transfers to develop irrigation systems. MAF provided seed rice and fertilizer to increase yields. 15 Community Youth Contractors (CYCs) trained in agriculture and peacebuilding and supported to provide technical oversight and build social cohesion. 64 lead farmers and 15 CYCs trained in improved Post-Harvest Management to reduce losses, improve quality and support marketing. WFP, OVP, UNDP and community, government, development partner and private-sector stakeholders facilitated Community Based Participatory Planning to empower community members, particularly women and youth, to formulate Community Action Plans (CAPs). CAPs will seek to leverage Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives of companies.

Please indicate any significant project-related events anticipated in the next six months, i.e. national dialogues, youth congresses, film screenings, etc. (1000 character limit):

**Under outcome 1, activities to be done: from November to January 2021**

* Education of stakeholders on land policy: NAMATI is contracted to educate stakeholders and communities in the four project chiefdoms on the land policy. This activity will run for 6 months and will employ several tools for increasing community knowledge in the land policy including: informal village workshops, community radio phone in programmes, strategic messages in local languages, Community education workshops in each chiefdoms (12), two workshops for local authorities among others.
* MSP in Pujehun: the second MSP in Pujehun is scheduled for first week December to follow-up on community challenges tabled at the last MSP.
* 2 Gender trainings: Fambul Tok will capacitate women across the 27 sections of the upper and Lower Banta Chiefdoms (Moyamba District) in dialogue, advocacy, communication, entrepreneurship and project management and implementation skills.
* Validation of the Land Degradation Assessment: in collaboration with the OVP, line ministries, community representatives and other stakeholders, s the validation workshop will be conducted in first week December.
* Promoting lessons learnt on innovative approaches: this will be undertaken in close collaboration with UNDP Accelerator Lab in second week of January 2021.

**Under outcome 2, activities to be completed in the next six months:**

* Supported farmer groups will commence harvesting, processing and marketing of rice from November onwards.
* Women and youth will be supported with vegetable and legume seeds, tools and training to enable cultivation during the dry season (January onward) to improve nutrition and incomes. This would also help targeting “high risk” youth and women with identification and provision of alternative livelihood activities
* CBPPs in Lower and Upper Banta will be facilitated.
* All Community Action Plans (CAPS) will be presented to District Councils and companies to solicit support and operationalize.
* Learning and sharing visits to successful farmer groups will promote lesson sharing. Best practices of community-driven livelihood initiatives to mitigate localized resource-based conflicts will be presented to OVP to inform scale-up.

FOR PROJECTS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF COMPLETION: summarize **the main structural, institutional or societal level change the project has contributed to**. This is not anecdotal evidence or a list of individual outputs, but a description of progress made toward the main purpose of the project. (1500 character limit):

In a few sentences, explain whether the project has had a positive **human impact**. May include anecdotal stories about the project’s positive effect on the people’s lives. Include direct quotes where possible or weblinks to strategic communications pieces. (2000 character limit):

Address by Honourable Minister of Local Government – Madame Melrose Kargbo at the 23 October 2020 MSP meeting:

“*I challenge communities to take ownership of the platforms that have been strengthened to give voice; ensure you use this effectively to engage with both the mining companies and us as GoSL. As you have started working together, ensure you collectively identify and agree on development priorities that you will then apply these funds to for resilience of your communities and sustaining your children’s future development.”*

Address of Local Police Partnership Board (LPPB) Leader – Mohamed Sowe at joint monitoring focus group meeting in Mokanji on 2 September 2020:

“*The coming of the GRC has been a blessing to the Rutile area; previously, the LPPB spent much time at the Police station to negotiate the release of youths detained due to blocking of roads to company vehicles and other vandalism committed. Since the establishment of the GRC and youth engagement in the livelihood intervention, the occurrence of such conflicts has drastically minimised. Now, youths in the GRC are actively involved in preventing violence in their communities. As LPPB, we have seen reprieve in tensions within the community. Relations with the police has also improved and we work together on other community policing issues*”.

In Moyamba District, two female youth serving as youth contractor reported being empowered through the project with technical and leadership skills that has enabled them to impact several communities in the Lower Banta chiefdom. *See link:* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOp7gg4WZTI](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DeOp7gg4WZTI&data=04%7C01%7Cmichel.broux%40undp.org%7Cc1c9532fe0404cba250c08d88bd95bce%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C637413112944631728%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=sPpuinWvewqd%2BC5JjJ9G5q5NYsSQuvg8eLCjc6WX%2F3M%3D&reserved=0)

**During the Post-Harvest Management workshop, Suba Sheriff, a lead farmer in Gandorhun community, Malen chiefdom stated**

*“When I see WFP, I see Peace. Working together builds peace. In our farmer group, we now know who is sick and who has a problem due to their absence from work. Working in a group makes us support each other”.*

**Paramount Chief— Saffa Monya Tamu, Makpele Chiefdom, Pujehun District commented**

*“Though the number of youths engaged is low compared to the needs in my chiefdom, those selected minus from our problems. Now we have limited cases of addressing loan issues taken during farming activities and we are sure of having food in our communities through year-round cultivation. My section chiefs and I support this peacebuilding project.”*

**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.*

*If your project has more than four outcomes, contact PBSO for template modification.*

**Outcome 1: Communities in Pujehun and Moyamba districts benefit from more accountable institutions and mechanisms that promote peaceful relations between communities and private companies.**

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

**Progress summary:** *(3000 character limit)*

**Output 1.1. Land Acquisition and Land use processes are more inclusive and aligned with Policy Frameworks**

Land Degradation Assessment has been completed by the Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute (SLARI) across the targeted chiefdoms and districts; the report has been shared with GoSL and other stakeholders. Below is a summary of the key findings and recommendations[[1]](#footnote-1).

* The assessment report indicates significant forest degradation informed by indigenous perceptions in the four chiefdoms and backed by empirical evidence obtained from Landsat imagery analysed at 2000 and 2020. Forest loss is mainly attributed to the combined influence of local activities (subsistence farming, lumbering, and charcoal production); mining (in the case of Lower and Upper Banta); and expansions in oil palm plantations (more intense in Malen than in Mapkele). Indigenous perceptions suggest that the land tenure systems are highly monopolized by local authorities and compensations or surface rents are grossly inadequate to provide sustainable and alternative livelihoods after land dispossession. The attendant surplus labour, poverty and food insecurity have been major triggers of dissatisfaction and conflict in these communities.
* Chemical analysis of water samples proved that water bodies in mining localities are more polluted than those in non-mining communities. Results from Malen showed that soil and water samples had higher pollutants than those in Makpele.
* Employment opportunities for indigenes and the delivery of corporate social responsibilities are perceived by the communities as grossly inadequate in view of their expectations. Labour intensive and menial jobs are open to indigenes due, in part, to their lack of qualification for technical and administrative jobs that attract better salaries. Communities in operational areas of mining and agricultural companies complained of serious challenges in accessing social amenities like healthcare, education, and safe drinking water.
* While land degradation and unemployment/underemployment are more frequently reported in the Lower Banta and Upper Banta chiefdoms where industrial ore mining activities are intensive, land dispossession and poor compensations or rents are most frequently articulated in the Malen and Makepele chiefdoms where plantation agricultural activities are intensive.

The report highlights a set of thirteen (13) general recommendations and eight (8) recommendations for the mining and agriculture communities which will be used to further strengthen the communities’ resilience in the two districts and by the government to address the recurrent challenges. The project will work with the OVP, Communities and other stakeholders to implement the recommendations as pertinent.

It is to note that the Land Degradation Assessment has been presented to the RCO, UNDP, WFP as well as to the VPO in the presence of Mrs Frances Alghali, the Minister of State and West Africa Representative EITI Board. A final validation of the Assessment is planned during the month of December 2020 with the participation of line ministries and national stakeholders.

**Output 1.2. Infrastructure for Mediation and Dialogue is Strengthened to Manage Conflicts within and between Communities and Companies.**

Since the last report, the project has implemented one more Multi-Stakeholders Platform (MSP) meeting in Moyamba District informed by feedback from the subcommittee set up by the MSP to follow up on challenges of communities in Lower and Upper Banta.

Three key Ministers (Minister of State from the Vice President Office - OVP); Deputy Minister Local Government (MLGRD) and the Minister of Agriculture (MA), the PDA and two UNDP staff (Governance Team Lead and the Chief Technical Advisor) attended the MSP meeting held in Mosenessie (Moyamba District) on 23rd October with the presence of around 60 people comprising youth, women and religious leaders and VIMECTO (the mining company) representative.

**Concerns tabled by the communities at the MSP**

* Better negotiations of land deals
* Review of composition and tenure of the CDC.
* Limited number of job opportunities worsened by the Covid-19 Pandemic.
* The need for increased women targeted alternative livelihood interventions as well as Adult Literacy programmes
* Request for increased number of the swamp farms. There are 8 now, would prefer to see these increased to 16.

**Fambul Tok provided training and support to Grievance Redress Committees (GRCs) facilitated from 24th to 25th June 2020 that targeted the chiefdom Grievance Redress Committees** in Gbangbatoke (Moyamba) and Pujehun towns. Participants (82; M:55 and F:27) consisted of committee members from the two chiefdoms of Upper and Lower Banta. In Pujehun also, the committee members from the two chiefdoms of Malen and Makpele attended the trainings. The capacity of the participants was enhanced for effective operations of the GRCs in identifying community level conflicts. They were also equipped with tools for addressing community level conflict resolutions. The GRCs have become integral in the local administrative structures of the four chiefdoms with GRCs meetings held on monthly basis in all four chiefdoms between May to August 2020 to discuss issues that are generating grievances and seen as catalysts for conflicts within their chiefdoms. A total of 574 Chiefdom authorities and the citizens of the four chiefdoms attended the 28 Chiefdom GRC meetings. Issues discussed include:

1. The stalement of the paramount chieftaincy in the Lower Banta Chiefdom and its impact on community development and cohesion;
2. Land dispute between two families in Gandorhun (Malen chiefdom) amicably resolved by the GRC;
3. GRC in Mokanji (Lower Banta Chiefdom) resolved a contentious youth conflict arising from land access and its use;
4. Improving representation of motor bike riders as key stakeholders to peace in the GRC;
5. Urgent attention to be paid to the need for post-harvest infrastructure for FBOs; and
6. Strategizing on mechanisms for improving communication between GRC and communities

**The project supported the facilitation of sectional dialogues/meetings for formation of sectional grievance redress committees.** Fambul Tok convened 27 sectional meetings in the four chiefdoms of Upper Banta and Lower Banta in Moyamba district and Malen and Makpele chiefdoms in the Pujehun district from May to June 2020 (Consultative meetings & SGRC Establishment meetings). These dialogues/meetings were attended by 540 participants[[2]](#footnote-2). GRCs have been cascaded to the sectional level to ensure that the efforts are not only limited at chiefdom levels but create a two-way feedback system between the chiefdom level structures and the sections with the objective to make the identification of community conflicts more effective and timely. It is worth noting that the sectional GRCs provide a channel for identifying early warning signs of silent conflicts. In Pujehun District, 45 Women out of 130 SGRC are members while 44 Women out of 140 SGRC are members in Moyamba District.

**Fambul Tok facilitated stakeholders’ meetings from 1st to 4th July for the review of the composition and operations of Community Development Funds (CDF). The CDF in the Upper and Lower Banta regions have been fraught with allegations of mismanagement, limited inclusion in decision making and poor communication with communities.** The objectives of these meetings were to discuss the status of the committees that are responsible for the management of the CDF and agree on the composition and their operationalization in the Upper Banta and Lower Banta chiefdoms (Moyamba district) and Makpele and Malen chiefdoms (Pujehun district). 220 participants in 4 chiefdoms (55 participants per chiefdom) attended the meetings which included a total of 82 women. A consensus was reached during the review.

**Stakeholders meeting for the establishment of Inclusive Community Development Funds Committees:** Fambul Tok facilitated the convening of second chiefdom level stakeholders meetings on the status of the committees that are responsible for the management of the community development funds (CDF) in the Upper Banta and Lower Banta chiefdoms in the Moyamba district and Makpele and Malen chiefdoms in the Pujehun district on 15, 17 and 18 July. A total of 220 participants in 4 chiefdoms (55 participants per chiefdom) attended the stakeholders’ meetings including 80 women[[3]](#footnote-3).

Upper and Lower Banta chiefdoms in the Moyamba district have a single consolidated Community Development Committee under the VIMETCO Company that also includes representatives from other chiefdoms in the Moyamba district as well as from Bonthe and Bo districts. The structure and organization of the Chiefdom Development Committee in Malen Chiefdom is different from those in the Upper and Lower Banta chiefdoms in the Moyamba district because of the activity and existing legal framework.

**In addition, Inclusive Community Development Committees (ICDC) were established in all four chiefdoms** with the support of the Paramount Chief/Regent Chief and the District Councils. The ICDCs are composed of a total of 89 members (Upper Banta: 21 members; Lower Banta: 23 members; Malen: 21 members; Makpele: 24 members). 18 out of the 89 members are women. The reason for this is that membership into the ICDC is institutional. As such members are nominated by the interest they represented. For example; Section chiefs, Imams/Pastors, Landowners, youth representatives and women representatives

**Development of a simplified community friendly training manual on project appraisal, budgeting and monitoring:** Fambul Tok hired a consultant who produced the manual: “*Simplified community friendly training manual on project appraisal, budgeting and monitoring”* Manual produced. The Manual was used to train the CDCs in Moyamba and Pujehun districts. The CDF/CDC training programmes in project appraisal, budgeting and monitoring were conducted during two–day in the four chiefdoms were conducted from August 12-13, 2020 in Moyamba and in Pujehun districts. 100 participants attended the 2 training sessions from 4 chiefdoms.

**Dialogue meetings were conducted between the CDF Committees and the Private companies and the district stakeholders:** Fambul Tok facilitated dialogue meetings between the CDCs and the private companies (Vimetco and Socfin: 26th August; Natural Habitat: 27th August; and Sierra Rutile: 10th September) in Moyamba and Pujehun Districts Councils to enhance communications and mutual understanding. These dialogue meetings were held with the objectives to i) enhance communications and mutual understanding and to update the District Councils on the re-constituted CDC committees, ii) to update the councils on the operations of the committees, and iii) to solicit the support of the councils in promoting the work of the committees. As a result, the meeting provided a common ground for collective operations and enhanced cooperation. A total of 100 participants attended the dialogue meetings.

**Assessment of existing women’s groups in the 27 sections of the four chiefdoms:** The assessment was conducted by Fambul Tok with the support of a lead researcher. 27 sections with 265 villages in the four chiefdoms (Malen and Makpele Chiefdoms in the Pujehun district and Upper Banta and Lower Banta chiefdoms in the Moyamba district) were assessed. A total of 153 women’s groups (informal community-based self-help associations) engaged in various activities were identified by the assessment. The report “*Assessment of existing women’s groups in the Upper Banta and Lower Banta chiefdoms of Moyamba district and in the Malen and Makpele chiefdoms in Pujehun district”* is available.

Additionally, feedback from the joint monitoring visit coordinated by the OVP found that the GRC was not well known in some communities and villages in the project regions. In response, the OVP undertook a sensitisation exercise between 15th -23rd September 2020. Knowledge gaps were more prevalent in Malen (a conflict sensitive community); participation ion community awareness drew participation from the project supported FBOs, CDCs, GRCs (sectional and villages levels) and identified opposing groups. This event was used to provide information on the working of the GRC and establish links with the FBOs operating in their communities. Participants also underscored that while they identified GRC members, little is known about the CDC and its members. In Makpele, however, there was more information and awareness among community members on the work of the GRC and CDC. Key results from the work of the GRC was noted as the peaceful resolution of the micro-credit loan conflict involving members of the Mano-River Women’s Group.

**Output 1.3: Strengthen the Capacity of Government, particularly Security Sector, Local Leaders and Companies to be more Accountable to Communities.**

During the reporting period, SLEITI completed report on the 2017-2018 activities of mining and gas sector. A dissemination and sensitisation of the findings of the report was made to communities in Waterloo (Western Rural Area), Lunsar (Port Loko District), Bonthe and Moyamba districts. Key message shared with communities is the revised surface rent quota to land owners and communities; 70% of surface rent is now directed to the land owners while government attracts just 30%.

Communities Reaction & Feedback:

1. Concerns expressed on gender equality in employment provided by the mining companies;
2. Members of Parliament relationship with Landowners that might deteriorate with this new surface rent quota allowing for more funds in
3. Government role in monitoring use of surface rent resources by various stakeholders
4. Concerns about the date when the new quota system will become effective.
5. Concerns raised about land reclamation in mined out areas;
6. Communities request that GoSL opens up land deals to communities.

The activities of the SLEITI is overseen by the Multi-Stakeholders Platforms (MSP) coordinated by the OVP. Some of the concerns raised by community members were addressed in the meeting but point 6 above was referred to the OVP for actioning at the next MSP.

**HRC (Human Right Commission) training of LPPB (Local Police Partnership Board) and SLP (Sierra Leone Police):** Four training sessions of three days each were held in Moyamba District covering Lower Banta Chiefdom with two batches of 25 participants each and in Upper Banta Chiefdom with two batches of 25 participants each, totalling 100 including Police participants. The trainings enhanced the capacities of the participants in i) developing strategies to address issues in their community, ii) deciding to restructure LPPB, iii) changing attitudes towards women in their community, iv) understand the relationship between them and the LPPB and their roles and responsibilities and how they can collaborate effectively with the LPPB and the community to prevent and fight crime, and v) formulate activities they will implement upon their return.

A training on Sexual Gender-based Violence (SGBV) was conducted for the LPPB and SLP to increase their knowledge on SGVB occurrence, laws, referral pathway and support tools. Participants from four (4) companies (namely Natural Habitat, Socfin Agricultural Company, Sierra Rutile and Vimetco) from Pujehun and Moyamba districts as well as community members from among the SLP, women’s groups and CSOs attended the training. A total number of 36 participants attended the training. Sixteen (16) participants were officials of the invited companies while 20 participants were community stakeholders. Among them were 19 male participants representing 55% and 16 females representing 45% of participants.

**Main training outcomes:**

* The capacity of companies and stakeholders (including community members and law enforcement agency) on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and other related laws guiding their operations were enhanced;
* Companies were guided regarding compliance to human rights standards and prevention of SGBV practices in their operations, and knowledge on the benefits of companies’ compliance to rights-based approach in their operations was enhanced;
* Relationship improved and resilience built between companies and host communities.

**Key recommendations from the training:**

* HRC SL, in subsequent trainings, include members of the RSLAF deployed in areas companies operate.
* HRC SL to engage in public awareness programmes in communities on rights and responsibilities.
* HRC SL to embark on mobile complaints handling in companies’ operational areas in order to resolve business and human rights grievances by communities
* HRC SL to embark on regular monitoring of operations of companies to assess compliance to business and human rights standards
* GoSL, HRCSL and CSOs should follow-up on payment made by companies for development and monitor how it is spent

**Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:** *(1000 character limit)*

Meaningful and active participation of women and youth in community-level dialogue mediation forums has contributed toward ensuring that these important platforms contribute toward gender equality and women empowerment and youth inclusion and responsiveness. Fambul Tok continues to facilitate women-only planning forums held before GRC and CDFC meetings, thus providing an opportunity for women to collectively identify priority issues and engagement approach. Further, women have been capitated in leadership, communication and project management skills enabling women effectively participate, represent their peers and communicate their views and needs. As targeted, women and youth representation of 30 percent has been achieved and maintained across all dialogue platforms.

**Outcome 2: Social tensions reduced by enhancing sustainable livelihoods of women and youth and improving food security.**

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

**Progress summary:** *(3000 character limit)*

31 targeted communities in Makpele (6) and Malen (8) chiefdoms, Pujehun district; and Lower (13) and Upper (4) Banta chiefdoms, Moyamba district supported to establish sustainable livelihoods that build food security and reduce social tensions. 1,857 high risk youth (1,269 male youth) and women (588, majority female youth), representing 9,285 beneficiaries supported to establish irrigation systems for year-round cultivation.

As shown by baseline, resource-based conflicts often due to destruction of food crops without compensation, in addition to land dispossession, contributing toward increasing social tensions between communities and companies. To address this, outcome 2 supported irrigation system development in unutilized IVS for year-round cultivation. As private company operations predominantly use uplands, developing IVS provided a quick win opportunity to build food security and ease social tensions.

31targeted farmer groups received agricultural tools. Given labour intensity of IVS development and cultural gender division of labour, most participants were young men. Providing a livelihood opportunity for young men contributed toward reducing social tensions given their role in previous conflicts with companies. 1,857 participants received 60 days Cash Based Transfer (US$2.90 per day) to incentivize labour contribution (total: US$323,205 disbursed, US$174 per participant). Farmers trained in improved rice cultivation methods to increase yields and enhance productivity of available land. 62 lead farmers (2 per group) and 15 CYCs trained in improved Post Harvest Management to reduce losses, add value, improve quality and market their produce.

To foster inclusion of women and youth in community planning processes and to nurture peaceful and systematic advocacy to companies to support development initiatives, two CBPP processes were facilitated in Makpele and Malen chiefdoms, Pujehun district. CBPP entails 30 community representatives per chiefdom (50 percent women and youth) working together to identify their long-term vision, and develop concrete initiatives to achieve their goal, documented in CAPs. CAPs formulated will be shared with the District Council and private companies to advocate for support. CAP committees were also established at chiefdom level to monitor implementation of initiatives.

To augment long-term sustainability, 15 (5 women) Community Youth Contractors (CYCs) – comprised of high-risk youth with interest and potential in agriculture were trained and supported. CYCs provide technical oversight to livelihood activities. CYCs have supported the meaningful participation of youth and contributed to peaceful conflict resolution. Female CYCs contributed toward transforming gender stereotypes and barriers faced by women in terms of enhancing their agricultural knowledge.

Through outcome 2, youth and women have formed 31 farmer groups. Collective work has contributed toward strengthening social cohesion and reducing tensions. Demonstrating strong cohesion is the fact that 26 groups have registered with MAF and District Council as formal Farmer Based Organisations (FBOs). In Lower Banta, 13 FBOs have formed a Farmer’s Cooperative. In all chiefdoms, social tensions have reduced, as indicated through qualitative engagements during joint monitoring missions, in addition to no further documented cases of conflicts in the media (newspaper and radio) in targeted chiefdoms since the initiation of the project.

**Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:** *(1000 character limit)*

Livelihood activities have contributed toward gender equality and youth inclusion. 95 percent of livelihood participants are youth (18 – 35), including 35 percent women. In Sierra Leone, youth inclusion in agricultural is generally limited, with many young people not considering agriculture a lucrative livelihood opportunity.

With the project opportunities have been created for association and have restored dignity for women and youth, including the establishment of a women only Farmers Based Organization– “Felegbeh 2” - in Mokanji, Lower Banta, Moyamba district, now engaged in community self-help initiatives including: poultry farming and provision of water for construction. Demonstrating increased social cohesion and collective work is the formation of a Farmer Cooperative in Lower Banta comprising of all 13 PBF supported Farmer Based Organisations which will coordinate farming activities in the chiefdom including marketing.

Inclusion of women (50 percent) in CBPP processes assured their voice in chiefdom development initiatives, whilst agricultural trainings targeted 50 percent women and 50 percent youth, contributed toward empowerment.

**Outcome 3:**

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

**Progress summary:** *(3000 character limit)*

**Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:** *(1000 character limit)*

**Outcome 4:**

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

**Progress summary:** *(3000 character limit)*

**Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:** *(1000 character limit)*

**PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Monitoring:** Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000 character limit)Implementation of project activities have been closely monitored by WFP and UNDP teams, the OVP, MAF and CSOs. WFP also implemented its dedicated Beneficiary Feedback Mechanism, whereby beneficiaries can report challenges to WFP, sensitizing communities on how to use this facility and displaying posters. CYCs were provided with smart phones to enable them to report on activities during the height of the COVID-19 outbreak during which inter-district travel was curtailed. WFP and MAF established dedicated Whatsapp group with members comprised of WFP, MAF Extension staff, Community Youth Contractors for each targeted district to discuss and report on project implementation.1 joint monitoring visit with OVP, MAFFS, WFP and UNDP between 31 August and 5 September 2020.Follow-up visit to sensitise communities on the work of the GRC, CDC and MSP undertaken by the OVP between 15 -23 September 2020.Community-Based Participatory Planning exercise undertaken by WFP with UNDP and Fambul Tok in Mapkele (Pujehun) between 5 to 9 October 2020. High level field visit on 23 October attending the MSP in Mosenessie (Moyamba District) with Minister of State OVP, Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Local Government, representative of RC and Representative of WFP.  | Do outcome indicators have baselines? yesHas the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? Yes (during baseline) |
| **Evaluation:** Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period?No | Evaluation budget (response required):      If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations *(1500 character limit)*:       |
| **Catalytic effects (financial):** Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project.  | Name of funder: Amount USD:UNDP 130,000UNDP   115,755               |
| **Other:** Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? *(1500 character limit)* |  |

**PART IV: COVID-19**

*Please respond to these questions if the project underwent any monetary or non-monetary adjustments due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

1. Monetary adjustments: Please indicate the total amount in USD of adjustments due to COVID-19:

$

1. Non-monetary adjustments: Please indicate any adjustments to the project which did not have any financial implications:

To contain the spread of COVID-19, the Government instituted a range of measures including banning inter-district travel, public gatherings of >50 people, wearing of face masks, curfew (23:00 – 06:00 daily) and two national “circuit breaker” 3-days lockdown. Given the fundamentality of safely continuing agricultural production activities – with agricultural production deemed an “essential service” by the National COVID-19 Response Plan, WFP and MAF adjusted the project implementation approach, specifically: reducing group work of farmers to <10 people with robust oversight from Community Youth Contractors; provision of face masks to all farmers; provision of handwashing stations and liquid soap to all FBOs; and provision of smart phones to 15 Community Youth Contractors to enable them to report on and seek technical advice for livelihood activities during the inter-district lockdown.

1. Please select all categories which describe the adjustments made to the project (*and include details in general sections of this report*):

[x]  Reinforce crisis management capacities and communications

[x]  Ensure inclusive and equitable response and recovery

[ ]  Strengthen inter-community social cohesion and border management

[ ]  Counter hate speech and stigmatization and address trauma

[ ]  Support the SG’s call for a global ceasefire

[ ]  Other (please describe):

If relevant, please share a COVID-19 success story of this project (*i.e. how adjustments of this project made a difference and contributed to a positive response to the pandemic/prevented tensions or violence related to the pandemic etc.*)

***Honouring Commitments to Vulnerable Women and Youth Farmers engaged in Livelihood Activities during COVID-19 to Consolidate Peace***

A key success story of the project was WFP’s unwavering commitment to support targeted women and youth farmers during the outbreak, despite substantial operational challenges faced.

The declaration of a National State of Emergency at the end of March 2020 coincided with the height of livelihood activities, specifically the development of irrigation systems. Targeted 1,857 women and farmers had already diligently worked on the project and were expecting to receive their first round of Cash Based Transfers. To honour its commitment and duty of care to its beneficiaries, and to ensure that livelihood activities did not contribute toward doing harm and potentially exacerbating localized conflicts, WFP was resolute to ensuring that payments were made.

A key challenge faced was that WFP’s Financial Service Provider, Ecobank Sierra Leone, indicated that they were unable to provide out-of-branch payment services due to the prevailing COVID-19 situation. With all targeted communities located far distances from Ecobank branches (approximately 6 hours round trip), WFP quickly identified an alternative service provider, local NGO partner Pure Heart Foundation.

Although the first payment was not made until May 2020, WFP and MAF actively sensitized farmers of challenges encountered and reassured that commitments made would be honoured. Accordingly, farmers continued to engage in livelihood activities throughout this period with adherence to COVID-19 Infection Prevention Control (IPC) measures. Receipt of CBTs was key to safeguarding the wellbeing of women and youth beneficiaries during an extremely difficult time.

**PART V: INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT**

*Using the* ***Project Results Framework as per the approved project document or any amendments****- provide an update on the achievement of* ***key indicators*** *at both the outcome and output level in the table below (if your project has more indicators than provided in the table, select the 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. (300 characters max per entry)

|  | **Performance Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator Milestone** | **Current indicator progress** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay****(if any)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Outcome 1**Communities in Pujehun and Moyamba districts benefit from more accountable institutions and mechanisms that promote peaceful relations between communities and private companies. | Indicator 1.1Outcome Indicator 1 (a): Level of perceptions in all chiefdoms that believe that companies in their area respond (always or sometimes) to the needs of communities.   | 45 per cent of baseline survey respondents in all chiefdoms believe that companies in their area always (4 per cent) or sometimes (41 per cent) respond to the needs of communities. | 55 percent in all chiefdoms. |  | Indicator to be measured at the end of the project |  |
| Indicator 1.2Outcome Indicator 1 (b): Level of trust between communities and Community Development Committees. | 30.3 per cent of survey respondents said that trust between people in their area and the Community Development Committee is either very high (5 per cent) or somewhat high (25.3 per cent) | 45 percent of survey respondents |  | Indicator to be measured at the end of the project. |  |
| Indicator 1.31 (c): Level of trust between communities and Grievance Committees | 11.9 per cent of survey respondents said that trust between people in their area and the Grievance Committee is either very high (0.6 per cent) or somewhat high (11.3 per cent). | 30 percent of survey respondents. |  | Indicator to be measured at the end of the project. |  |
| Output 1.1Land acquisition and land use processes are more inclusive and aligned with policy frameworks. | Indicator 1.1.1Land conflict and degradation analyses for 4 targeted chiefdoms completed to identify common ground for dialogue | Land conflict analysis in the four chiefdoms of the two districts | 4 conflict and land degradation analyses completed |  | SLARI has concluded the report with key findings stated in this report. Presentation made to the OVP and other high-level stakeholders. Validation of the report is scheduled for first week December 2020.  |   |
| Indicator 1.1.2Number of community stakeholders (disaggregated by gender and age) trained on existing regulatory framework on land acquisition. | 0 (no records of recent trainings on regulatory frameworks in the four target chiefdoms) | 200 community stakeholders (50 per chiefdom) |  | NAMATI has been contracted to conduct stakeholder education the National Land in the four project districts. |  |
| Output 1.2Infrastructure for mediation and dialogue strengthened to manage conflicts within and between communities and companies. | Indicator 1.2.1Percentage of community members that had a conflict in the last two years felt that it was resolved very fairly | 33.1 per cent per cent of survey respondents who had been in a land dispute in the last two years believed that was the resolution to the dispute was very fair. | 40 percent of survey respondents |  | Not yet available |  |
| Indicator 1.2.2# of district-level MSPs meetings held on quarterly basis | **0** | 2 MSP meetings quarterly |  | 1 additional MSP meeting held in Mosenesie (Moyamba district) in October; MSP in Pujehun to be held in December 2020 |  |
| Output 1.3Strengthen the capacity of government, security sector, local leaders and companies to be more accountable to communities | Indicator 1.3.1Percentage of Local Police Partnership Board (LPPBs) meetings held on a monthly basis | 0 (no record of recent LPPBs meetings held in the 4 target locations) | 40 percent of LPPBs. |  | 100 LPPB and SLP members from Lower and Upper Banta Chiefdoms capacitated in Human Rights, SGBV, and conflict resolution  |  |
| Indicator 1.3.2Number of company staff from respective company community relations units trained in conflict mediation (disaggregated by gender). | 0 (no record of company staff trained in conflict mediation) | 20 company staff trained in conflict mediation and human rights. |  | 36 participants drawn from private companies in project areas (16) and communities (20) have increased capacities in Business and Human Rights facilitated by HRS-SL.  |  |
| Output 1.4 | Indicator 1.4.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 1.4.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Outcome 2**Social tensions reduced by enhancing sustainable livelihoods and food security  | Indicator 2.1Level of perception of the reduction of resource-based disputes | 57.8 per cent of survey respondents reported that they believe that the level of resource conflicts in their communities is either very high (26.7 per cent) or somewhat high (31.1 per cent). | Indicator to be measured at the end of the project. |  | \\ |   |
| Indicator 2.2Food Consumption Score, disaggregated by sex of household head  | Measures of the FCS captured by the baseline survey were 12.6 per cent with poor FCS and 65.8 per cent with borderline FCS in Moyamba and 57.2 per cent with poor FCS and 37.8 per cent with borderline FCS in Pujehun District. | Reduction of both poor and borderline FCS in both districts by 80 per cent. | Indicator to be measured in June 2020 | Post-distribution monitoring undertaken in September 2020.  | September 2020 PDM showed improvement in FCS status, with 7.5 percent with poor FCS and 44 percent with borderline FCS in Moyamba and 4 percent with poor FCS and 63 percent with borderline FCS in Pujehun. |
| Indicator 2.3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 2.1Promote climate-smart agriculture practices, agricultural value chain strengthening and livelihood opportunities | Indicator 2.1.1Percentage of community action plans developed with participation of women | **0** | 100% community action plans developed with minimum of 50 per cent female representation |  | 50 percent of plans completed with 50 percent female representation. Remaining CBPPs to be held in December 2020. This was delayed due to social gathering restrictions to contain COVID-19. |  |
| Indicator 2.1.2Number of farmers trained in climate-smart agriculture practices (disaggregated by gender) | **0** | 800 farmers trained in climate-smart agriculture. | In line with seasonal calendar, farmer training in climate-smart agriculture to commence in June 2020. | 1,857 women and youth trained in improved agronomic practices for rice cultivation; 77 lead farmers and Community Youth Contractors trained in Post-Harvest Management. Lead farmers trained as Trainers to cascade knowledge to their peers. | Prioritization of immediate implementation of agricultural livelihood activities based on land availability and seasonality and high need for quick support in targeted areas. |
| Output 2.2 | Indicator 2.2.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 2.2.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 2.3 | Indicator 2.3.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 2.3.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 2.4 | Indicator 2.4.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 2.4.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Outcome 3** | Indicator 3.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 3.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 3.3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 3.1 | Indicator 3.1.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 3.1.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 3.2 | Indicator 3.2.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 3.2.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 3.3 | Indicator 3.3.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 3.3.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 3.4 | Indicator 3.4.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 3.4.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Outcome 4** | Indicator 4.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 4.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 4.3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 4.1 | Indicator 4.1.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 4.1.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 4.2 | Indicator 4.2.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 4.2.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 4.3 | Indicator 4.3.1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indicator 4.3.2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Output 4.4 | Indicator 4.4.1 |  |  |  |  |  |

1. For more details, refer to the SLARI’s full report as well as to the summary report “Land Degradation Assessment (LDA) in Moyamba and Pehejun Districts, Sierra Leone” issued on October 30th, 2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 54 sectional meetings were held. 2 meetings per section for 27 sections in the four chiefdoms. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)