

**PEACEBUILDING FUND**

**[Liberia]**

**FINAL project report**

# REPORT COVER PAGE

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| Recipient Organization(s): UNDP |  | PBF Priority Area: ***Rapid Response: Critical Interventions to Promote Peace and Resolve Conflict*** |
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| PBF Project No: PBF/LBR/D-2 (0006376)PBF Project Title: “Critical Interventions to Promote Peace and Resolve Conflict”: Rapid Rule of Law Assistance in Grand Bassa and Maryland Counties |  | Report Number: |
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| Reporting Period: |  | Total Project Budget: |
| Entire Project period: June 2008 to Dec 2009 |  | PBF-funding: $48,150  Other funding: N/A |

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| List Implementing Partners: |  | Project Coverage/Scope: |
| *Ministry of Justice* |  | *Grand Bassa and Maryland Counties, Liberia* |

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| Abbreviations and acronyms: |  | Project Duration: Start Date:  *26 June 2008*  End date:  *December 2009*  Budget Revisions/Extensions:   * *N/A*   Project Closure:   * *Project Closing* |
| 1. *PRS – Poverty Reduction Strategy* 2. *MOJ – Ministry of Justice* 3. *CA – County Attorney* 4. *JSC – Joint Steering Committee* 5. *TAP – Technical Advisory Panel* 6. *GOL – Government of Liberia* 7. *CDA – County Development Agend BIN – Bureau for Immigration and Naturalization* 8. *CST – County Support Teams a* |  |

# Background and Purpose

The purpose of the projects, developed in June 2008 was to enable UNDP to purchase two vehicles for the Ministry of Justice to enable it respond rapidly in prosecuting cases in Grand Bassa Maryland Counties in order to demonstrate the Government’s will to end impunity and extend the rule of law. In Grand Bassa, the failure to adjudicate cases had resulted in the eruption of violent crimes. It was also a first but critical first step in the longer term efforts of enhancing the MoJ’s response capacity throughout Liberia in addressing the underlying conflict factors and the weak and dysfunctional justice system.

In Maryland Community members demanded justice and expedient Government action to tackle the substantial backlog of cases of violent crimes that have been piling up in the absence of a Ministry of Justice County Attorney to prosecute the cases. Jails were stretched to capacity by those arrested for crimes waited long before trial. Lack of action had led to increased tension and violence. At the same time, a County Attorney had been chosen by the Government and was ready to deploy to Maryland County and was only constrained by lack of transport for the prosecutor to use to travel from Monrovia to Harper and to the various areas in Maryland necessary to carry out speedy prosecutions. In the meantime tensions had continued to mount.

*Main objectives and outputs of the project*. The government needed to stem tensions resulting from lack of prosecution of cases in these two counties. It also sought to extend its presence and in upholding the rule of law so as to send a clear signal that it has the sole authority to dispense justice with expediency and without prejudice. In addition, this intervention directly addressed the weak-dysfunction justice system – a key conflict factor as articulated in Liberia’s Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) as well as Liberia Priority Plan.

A key output was provision of two motor vehicles for the County Attorneys in the two counties to enhance mobility in connection with offering prosecution services, addressing a large number of pre-trial detainees, especially land over land conflicts thereby helping to reduce the backlog of cases. The outcome has been the stemming of violence and decreased tension in the County and facilitating peace and reconciliation.

The primary implementing partner was the Ministry of Justice and the project involved partnership with UNDP which facilitated rapid and real time response in purchasing the two vehicles.

# Resources

*Financial Resources:*

* Funds provided by the PBf constituted the sole source of funds for this emergency project.
* No budget revisions were made

*Human Resources:*

* The project consisted merely of purchasing of 2 vehicles. As such no national nor international staff were recruited. ***UNDP purchased the vehicles through its procurement unit while the MoJ covered operational costs including the drivers and maintenance.***

# Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

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

1. ***Immediate acquisition of the vehicles by UNDP and delivery to MoJ***
2. ***Use of the vehicles to transport County Attorney and MoJ staff/officials in Grand Bassa and Maryland Counties***
3. ***Vehicles have also been available to support situations requiring MoJ’s officials to travel to respond to similar situations or any other situation that needs their presence.***

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

***Owing to the emergency nature of the cases, a waiver was made to fast track the purchase the vehicle from a local (Monrovia-based) vendor. Both the DSRSG for Governance and Recovery and the Ministers of Justice and Internal Affairs put priority on this action and UNDP was requested to move fast in procuring the vehicle.***

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

***Since the purchase of the vehicle was done by UNDP, the procurement was subjected to UNDP internal regulations. Once the units were delivered to the MoJ, the monitoring was maintained to ensure that through the mobility provided by the vehicle, the Ministry was able to address the demands for administration of justice in two Counties. Periodical reports from the Ministry as well field visits has ensured compliance to the requirements of the project.***

* Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken.

***Field visits to the two Counties have included as assessment of the use of the vehicles and the extent prosecution of cases has been enhanced. This has been confirmed. Corroboration was sought within the regular reporting by the MOJ within the Rule of Law Pillar***

# Results

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***The vehicles acquired for the project represented a one-off strategy to address the time-sensitive situations the two Counties. This has been fully achieved and while the vehicles serviced the needs of the County Attorneys, the MoJ also utilized the assets to increase its presence in the field beyond the two counties in enforcing the rule of law. In the overall the capacity of the MoJ was enhanced.***

* Report on the key outputs achieved in the reporting period including # and nature of the activities (inputs), % of completion and beneficiaries.
* ***Decreased tension in the counties, caused by delayed trials, especially land disputes***
* ***Reduced violent acts after MoJ prosecutions and reduction of existing caseload;***
* ***Police and government improved its monitoring of cases, judiciary needs have been met and tensions reduced***
* ***Violence halted.; sustained presence of prosecutors has led to increased prosecutions and decreased caseload***
* ***Disputes have been addressed in a timely fashion through the court system by the Ministry of Justice providing mobility for the County Attorneys in providing prosecution services in the counties that have very challenging terrain;***
* ***Provision of services to nearby counties through mobile prosecution services;***
* ***Maintaining the presence of Government in the county especially in view of the drawdown and withdrawal of UNMIL; success in re-establishing rule of law and access to justice constitute a key benchmark for the overall peace and security consolidation.***
* Explain, if relevant, delays in project implementation, the nature of the constraints, lessons learned in the process and actions taken to mitigate future delays.

***The dilapidated road networks in the rural counties imposed a huge burden in terms of operational and maintenance costs; during the rainy season, mobility was almost curtailed leading to delays in dispensing prosecution services.***

* List the key partnerships and collaborations, and explain how such relationships impact on the achievement of results.
* ***County Superintendents in addressing a common problem***
* ***CST – forging partnerships for addressing county priorities***
* ***MoJ – in providing prosecution services***
* ***LNP – in investigations, enforcement of law and order, keeping the peace***
* ***BIN – investigations, information sharing***
* ***Judiciary/Public Defense System – partnership in enhancing rule of law***
* Other highlights and cross-cutting issues pertinent to the results being reported on.

***Because the intervention is focusing on extending prosecution services to the leeward counties the project has enhanced public confidence in rule of law and State capacity for conflict [prevention and peace building which is a key priority linked to UNDP’s rule of law programme. Efficient administration of justice will create conducive environment for poverty reduction activities.***

# Future Work Plan (if applicable)

* None as the project is closed with the vehicles handed over to Government.
* Indicate any major adjustments in strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs planned.

***Although the emergency prosecution services linked to the land disputes in the counties for which the vehicles were purchased have largely been addressed, the motor vehicles will still remain available to the government to enhance the work of the County Attorneys through access to the county’s interior; the vehicles will continue to provide mobile prosecution services, one of the strategies utilized by the MOJ in providing ready and real time services to outlying areas.***