

**[Peacebuilding Fund]**

**ANNUAL programme NARRATIVE progress report**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 january – 31 December 2009**

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| *Submitted by:* United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) |  | *Country and PBF Priority Area*LiberiaPriority Area:2.1 Foster national reconciliation and consolidate peace / 2.2 Critical Interventions to Promote Peace and Resolve Conflict |
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| *Programme No:* PBF/LBR/D-8*MDTF Office Atlas No:* 00072006*Programme Title:* Inter-Ethnic Reconciliation Project in Nimba County |  | *Participating Organization(s):*UNHCR |
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| *Implementing Partners:*  Peacebuilding Resource Center (PBRC) |  | *Programme Budget (from the Fund):* *$50,000* |
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| *Programme Duration (in months):* 3 months Start date[[1]](#footnote-1): 17 August 2009  End date: 11 Nov 2009 (*Original*)  15 March 2010 (*Revised*) |

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# NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

# Purpose

The objective of the project is to promote reconciliation and mitigate potential violent conflict between the Mandingo and Mano/Gio ethnic groups in Nimba County. Prior to the civil conflict, these ethnic groups coexisted peacefully. However, the ethnic tensions deepened along different phases of the conflict as these ethnic groups were deeply involved in the collaboration and mobilization of rebel groups against each other. This lead to thousands of Mandingos of flight for safety to Guinea and they remained there for most part of the conflict time. After years in exile, many Mandingos returned to their homes to find that their former lands have been claimed by other Liberians, igniting conflicts between the Mandingos and other Liberians regarding land use, ownership, and access. Today, ethnic tensions in Nimba County between three of the ethnic groups embroiled in Liberia’s civil war still continue to undermine the consolidation of peace and security.

It is against this background that the project was fast tracked to implement a series of distinct, but interrelated, peace building interventions to deliver the following outputs;

1. Key conflict issues affecting Nimba County identified through social dialogue by participation of 200 persons from 6 districts;
2. 30 members of Peace Councils in 6 districts in Nimba County trained in Conflict Resolution/ Transformation skills;
3. One round table conference of 50 participants held in Ganta, Nimba County;
4. Actions derived from the Conference followed up;
5. Increased community utilization of Peace Huts including use by 6 Peace Councils.

***Relevance to the Liberia PBF Priority Plan***

The project is aligned with the two priority areas in Liberia PBF Priority Plan; “fostering national reconciliation and consolidate peace” and “Critical Interventions to Promote Peace and Resolve Conflict”. As articulated in the plan, facilitating national reconciliation including ethnic divisions is critical in order to lay a solid foundation for long-term peace and stability. Inaction on deepened cleavages within society across ethnic, political and economic lines; accumulation of unresolved land disputes, loss of confidence in peace may reignite organized conflict as it leaves rooms for opportunistic leaders to capitalize on growing tensions and discontentment.

# Resources

***Financial Resources***

The project is 100% funded by PBF. There have not been any budget revisions. The Project was approved by Liberia PBF Joint Steering Committee (JSC) on 3 July 2009 and funds were advanced from MDTF to the UNHCR HQ on 13 August 2009. Following MDTF remittance, the funding was transferred from the HQ to the Country Office in Liberia on 15 October 2009.

***Human Resources***

* National Staff committed to the project:
  + PBRC:
    - Funded by PBF: 2 Programme staff; 5 Operations, all full time.
  + UNHCR:
    - Funded by UNHCR: 2 Programme staff, part-time.
* International Staff committed to the project:
  + UNHCR:
    - Funded by UNHCR: 1Programme staff, all part-time.

# Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

The project will be implemented by PBRC under the UNHCR sub-agreement applicable to all UNHCR implementing partners. PBRC will deliver the project period outputs through its partnerships with WANEP and Flomo Theatre Production. PBRC, as a lead agency will manage funds and coordinate activities with partner agencies. WANEP will lead training for Peace Council members. Flomo Thearter Production will be responsible to produce awareness messages on land issues which will be disseminated through a local radio station.

Capitalizing on other Peacebuilding project implementation in Nimba County, UNHCR will supervise and monitor the project through its Field office in Saclepea, Nimba and field visit. In terms of administrative/financial monitoring, the regular UNHCR sub-project monitoring and reporting procedures will be in place. As a UNHCR implementing partner, PBRC will follow established UNHCR procurement procedures.

# Results

The project was envisioned to commence on 17 August 2009, but the sub-agreement to operationalise the project has finally been signed on 15 December 2009. As a result, the project has only completed 15 days of a 3-month total project period. Due to the fact that the project is in such an early stage, project progress remains difficult to measure.

This was caused by a number of reasons. As described in the above section, the initial delay was in the receipt of funding by the County Office in Liberia. Additional delay was experienced as the planned activities set out in the original proposal had to be harmonized with the other PBF projects as well as the actual situation on the ground after the project approval by the JSC.

The project was fast tracked to quickly act on some of the recommendations from the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) /Interpeace 6-month emergency peacebuilding intervention in Nimba in 2008 and to be implemented before the commencement of the one year PBF project, Interpeace Platform for Dialogue for Peace in Liberia. However, the result was to be built upon by the later project. A great deal of close work between UNHCR and PBRC had to be done to fine-tune the project in order to avoid duplication of interventions. In addition to the technical harmonization of project strategies and activities with the Interpeace project, a consultation was done with peacebuilding Civil Society Organizations based in Nimba to coordinate and synergise the project with existing and recent related efforts on peacebuilding, especially focusing on land and ethnic tensions in the target areas.

# Future Work Plan

The project will hit the ground running in the beginning of 2010. Please see the work plan annexed to this report.

# Performance Indicators (optional)[[2]](#footnote-2)

# Abbreviations and Acronyms

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| PBF | Peacebuilding Fund |
| PBRC | Peacebuilding Resource Center |
| JSC | Joint Steering Committee |
| UNOPS | United Nations Office for Project Services |
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**Annex**

**WORK PLAN**

**Implementing Partner**: Peace Building Resource Center

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| **Outputs** | **Activities** | **Responsibility** | **Completion**  **Dates** |
| **Identification /validation of key issues affecting Nimba County** | Conduct social dialogue involving 200 persons to include the following issues   * Key issues over land and property * Inter-ethnic tension and citizenship identified by previous intervention are discuss and analyzed * Facilitate social mobilization | * PBRC and Flomo Theater Production | * **Dec. 15, 2009** * **Dec. 30, 2009** * **Dec. 10, 2009** |
| **30 members of the Peace Council trained in Conflict Resolution/ Transformation skills.** | * Convene community meeting * Strengthen / establish Inter-Ethnic County Peace Council * Train 30 members of the Peace Council | * PBRC, WANEP and Flomo Theater Production | * **Jan. 10, 2010** * **Jan. 30, 2010** * **Jan. 20, 2010** |
| **Round Table Conference held in Ganta, Nimba County** | * Organize a Round Table Conference * Follow-up actions derived from the Round Table Conference | * PBRC | * **Feb. 8, 2010** * **Feb. 28,2010** |
| **Strategy and momentum for increased community utilization of peace huts including the use by peace council** | * Increase the use of Peace Huts by linking Peace Councils to community Peace Hut | * PBRC/WANEP | * **Jan. 20, 2010** |

1. The start date is the date of the first transfer of funds from the MDTF Office as Administrative Agent. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. E.g. for the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund and the MDG-F. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)