

**NAME OF THE PROJECT:** Capacity Development of the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone

**BACKGROUND:**

Approved in July 2007, this project aims to improve the culture for respect and protection of human rights in the country. This will be achieved through capacity building of the newly established Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone to advocate, monitor and redress cases of human rights abuses particularly for women, children, and war victims

**ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- Operational capacity of the HRCSL established through equipping the office and recruitment of staff
- 70 complaints of human rights violations handled and recommendations made
- Awareness of human rights increased through the conduct of four workshops
- Baseline survey conducted on the Knowledge, Attitude & Practice of human rights
- Produced State of Human Rights Report
- Organized a national consultative conference in collaboration with UNIOSIL on the status of implementation of the TRC recommendations

**CONSTRAINTS/CHALLENGES:**

- Unforeseen delays caused by elections
- Absence of staff at the HRCSL at the beginning
- Lack of government funding that was promised
- Non competitive staff salaries and delay in government approval of salaries
- Roles and responsibilities of partners were not clarified in the original project document

**FINANCIAL STATUS:**

**Total Budget:** USD 1,522,055.70

**Expenditure:** USD 592,301

**ACTIONS/PLANS TO SPEED UP THE DELIVERY:**

- An international adviser recruited in January 2008 as programme manager to provide expert advise
- A full time Programme Officer dedicated to the project hired in October 2007
- A mid-term review of the project was conducted in March 2008
- Held a workshop on UNDP policies and procedures with all its partners
- Regular meeting of steering committee of HRCSL/PBF project to approve changes
- Regular consultative meetings of HRCSL, UNDP and UNIOSIL
- MOU to be formulated to guide project implementation
- Partners to the HRCSL/PBF project have agreed to fast-track implementation and therefore partners have met to revise and agree on a work plan.