



LIBERIA

PROJECT HALF YEARLY PROGRESS UPDATE

PERIOD COVERED: JANUARY – JUNE 2014

Project No & Title:	PBF/LBR/A-10: Community based Conflict Management- Women as Peace Makers and Nation Builders (Project ID: 00088031)		
Recipient Organization(s)¹:	UN Women		
Implementing Partners (Government, UN agencies, NGOs etc):	UN Women, Ministry of Gender and Development - MoGD; Development Education Network-DEN L; Rights and Rice Foundation-RRF.		
Location:	Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Bassa, Grand Gedeh and Sinoe Counties		
Total Approved Budget :²	USD 1,000,000		
Preliminary data on funds committed :³	USD 437,533.28	% of funds committed / total approved budget:	43.7%
Expenditure⁴:	USD 145,092.33	% of expenditure / total budget: (Delivery rate)	14.5%
Project Approval Date:	4 October 2013	Possible delay in operational closure date (Number of months)	6 months
Project Start Date:	4 October 2013		
Expected Operational Project Closure Date:	31 March 2015		
Project Outcomes:	Youth, women and other marginalized members of conflict affected communities to act as a catalyst to prompt the peace process and early economic recovery		
PBF Focus Area⁵	National Reconciliation		

¹ Please note that where there are multiple agencies, only one consolidated project report should be submitted.

² Approved budget is the amount transferred to Recipient Organisations.

³ Funds committed are defined as the commitments made through legal contracts for services and works according to the financial regulations and procedures of the Recipient Organisations. Provide preliminary data only.

⁴ Actual payments (contracts, services, works) made on commitments.

⁵ PBF focus areas are:

1: Support the implementation of peace agreements and political dialogue (Priority Area 1):

(1.1) SSR; (1.2) RoL; (1.3) DDR; (1.4) Political Dialogue;

2: Promote coexistence and peaceful resolution of conflicts (Priority Area 2):

(2.1) National reconciliation; (2.1) Democratic Governance; (2.3) Management of natural resources;

3: Revitalise the economy and generate immediate peace dividends (Priority Area 3);

(3.1) Short-term employment generation; (3.2) Sustainable livelihoods

4) (Re)-establish essential administrative services (Priority Area 4)

(4.1) Public administration; (4.2) Public service delivery (including infrastructure).

Qualitative assessment of progress

<p><i>For each intended outcome, provide evidence of progress during the reporting period.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, for each outcome include the outputs achieved. (500 words max.)</i></p>	<p>Outcome 1:</p> <p>In January 2014, a joint assessment mission was undertaken by UN Women and the Ministry of Gender and Development to identify suitable communities for the implementation of the community-based peacebuilding and conflict management project. Nineteen Focus Groups Discussions (FGDs) were conducted with two hundred and forty three (243) rural women in nineteen targeted communities. Additionally, 45 key informant interviews were held with key stakeholders including women leaders, commissioners, Clan Chiefs, individual miners, paramount chiefs, superintendents, Gender County Coordinators, and other stakeholders from concession areas in the targeted communities. The assessment focused on the identification of Central communities for Peace Hut construction, identification and analysis of stakeholders, assessment of communities' interest in the project, identifying conflict drivers, community challenges and opportunities for strategic linkages.</p> <p>The assessment was conducted in six counties (Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh, Grand Bassa and Sinoe). Following the assessment, 23 project communities were identified. Findings from the assessment indicate an absence of security personnel in most concession areas which drives lawlessness, high rate of commercial sex work and teenage pregnancy, high level of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), boundary and land disputes, pollution of water sources, high rate of unemployment and limited/no access to safe drinking.</p>
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The aforementioned problems are drivers of conflict and therefore necessitate the PBF project intervention. Additionally, the existence of these conflict drivers and challenges were key factors that were considered in the selection of central communities.

Output 1.1: Five communities were identified as central communities (Belleyella in Gbarpolu County, Gboyeh Ta in Grand Bassa, Malema Town in Bomi, Money Camp in Sinoe and Tiama Town in Grand Gedeh counties) for the construction of new Peace Huts and central locations for all project interventions. Additional eighteen (18) communities were identified as satellite communities where all project interventions will be rolled out. UN Women and MoGD have worked with women and community leaders in the five central communities to secure plots for the construction of the new Peace Huts while arrangement with construction firms are being finalized to ensure that construction starts as soon as possible.

Output 1.2: Building the capacity of women and women groups to effectively engage in Peacebuilding, leadership and advocacy for justice is crucial for women and peace and security. A local NGO, "Development Education Network Liberia" (DEN-L) has been contracted as implementing partner to provide training of trainers (ToT) for women leaders on Peacebuilding and leadership and facilitate training rollout and mentoring for peace huts leaders to effectively manage and lead peace huts and Peacebuilding activities in all project communities.

Output 1.3: In June 2014, another joint team comprising of UN Women, Ministry of Gender and

Development and implementing partners (Rights and Rice - RRF & Development Network Liberia - DEN-L) undertook a mission to the 23 communities within the six counties to identify Peace Huts leaders. At the end of the exercise, 74 peace huts leaders and 5 locations were identified for the construction of peace huts. These women will receive ToT in Peacebuilding and leadership when the curriculum is developed. DEN-L has been assigned the responsibility of planning and organising peer to peer between community women leaders for the purposes of documenting and sharing of best practices.

With regard to the collection of information to help disseminate information, a new product (a tablet) from a local GSM service provider Cellcom was tested on the field during the month of June 2014 to find out the possibility of utilizing the service for the dissemination of information among women.

Outcome 2:

UN Women has hired a consulting firm, PROMUDO to develop the curriculum for male involvement. Rice and Rights and other partners are closely working with PROMUDO for the development of the curriculum. Partners were involved in the pre-assessment of the curriculum development which included interviews with partners and stakeholders followed by debriefing session with the same team to share findings and key elements of the curriculum based on the findings. The Consultants are expected to complete the curriculum by mid-July 2014, after which there will be a training of trainers' workshop on delivery of the curriculum.

	<p>Output 2.1:</p> <p>Male involvement is an integral part of a long-term strategy to ensure that women are supported and their rights protected and promoted in targeted project communities and beyond. Hence, a local non-governmental organization, Rice and Rights Foundation (RRF) has been contracted to establish, train and support male networks to serve as gender equality champions publicly working to end violence against women and girls in targeted project communities. Through a joint mobilization and recruitment effort by UN Women, MoGD and RRF, 10 male champion leaders have been identified from the five central communities to receive the ToT and subsequently mobilize, establish and lead the male champion networks in all project communities.</p> <p>Output 2.2:</p> <p>Peace Huts leaders have been identified for ToT, dialogue forums for community engagement with local security forces will be facilitated when Peace Huts are functional.</p>
<p><i>Do you see evidence that the project is having a positive impact on peacebuilding? (250 words max.)</i></p>	<p>It is still early to measure impact, however, given that full implementation will begin in the next quarter, impact would be evident in our next report.</p>
<p><i>Were there catalytic effects from the project in the period reported, including additional funding commitments or</i></p>	<p>It is still early to identify significant effects. However, from field visits, we have observed more collaborative efforts between and among the men and women in project communities. The way</p>

<p><i>unleashing/ unblocking of any peace relevant processes? (250 words max.)</i></p>	<p>the project is designed is attracting the support of the men.</p>
<p><i>If progress has been slow or inadequate, provide main reasons and what is being done to address them. (250 words max.)</i></p>	<p>UN Women lost her Country Representative in February this year and as such all the contracts for Implementing partners and other consultants have to be authorized from UN Women Regional Office in Dakar Senegal. This therefore necessitated a lot of to and fro exchanges which slowed things down. In addition, finding qualified staff for the project management unit at MoGD was a huge challenge even after two rounds of advertisements. It has also been difficult to identify qualified firms to develop various curricula and conduct baseline surveys.</p> <p>The PBF/PMU is now established—the Director, Finance Officer and Driver have been recruited and discussions are ongoing regarding the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist position. Additionally, UN Women now has a Deputy Country Representative. The process of contracting consultants and implementing partners is almost completed.</p>
<p><i>What are the main activities/expected results for the rest of the year? (250 words max.)</i></p>	<p>At the current stage of implementation, activities are mainly focused on identification of beneficiaries, setting up structures and developing curricula and training materials that will be used for the rollout of all major project activities. Hence, there are many key activities planned for the next quarter and up to the end of the project. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct baseline survey 2. Finalize all curricula (Male Involvement & Peacebuilding and leadership) 3. Conduct ToT for Peace Huts leaders and Male Champion Leaders

	4. Initiate the construction of new Peace Huts in central communities
<i>Is there any need to adjust project strategies/ duration/budget etc.? (500 words max.)</i>	Due to the challenge posed by the leadership gap at UN Women Liberia Office and difficulties encountered in setting up the Project Management Unit at the Ministry of Gender and Development, project implementation started very late (March 2014) instead of October 2013. Therefore, there is a need for a no-cost extension of six months.
<i>Are there any lessons learned from the project in the period reported? (500 words max.)</i>	During community assessment, project staff were informed about many other good initiatives that have ended as the project ended. Therefore, there is a strong need for sustainable exit strategies to ensure continuity at the end of the project. Additionally, it has been observed that program success depends on local leadership- especially women leaders—when women are leaders the level of support for women focused projects is extraordinary at the community level.
<i>What is the project budget expenditure to date (percentage of allocated project budget expended by the date of the report) – preliminary figures only? (250 words max.)</i>	As of the reporting date, one Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Ninety-Two Dollars and Thirty-Three Cents (USD 145,092.33) amounting to 14.5% has been used against the total funding received. The total of Four Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Three Dollars and Twenty-Eight Cents (USD 437,533.28), which amounts to 43.7% of the total funds received, has been committed.
<i>Any other information that the</i>	Due to the late start of project implementation for reasons that have been explained above,

*project needs to convey to
PBSO (and JSC) at this stage?
(250 words max.)*

there is a huge possibility that there will be a need for an extension. In addition, considering that the rains are already here and given the bad state of the roads effective implementation will probably only start in September.

INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT: *Using the Project Results Framework as per the approved project document- provide an update on the achievement of key indicators at both the outcome and output level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation in the qualitative text above.*

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
Outcome 1 Grassroots Women actively participate in all stages of peacebuilding initiatives in the 22 targeted communities	Indicator 1.1 Degree of women's participation in conflict management, peacebuilding and local decision-making in the 22 selected communities with active women's Peace Hut mechanisms.	Baseline (Oct 2013): data to be collected through Focus Group Discussions in 22 communities	Target (April 2015): 50% increase in women's perception of their participation in the 22 communities (to be confirmed after conducting baseline FGDs)	23 communities (5 central communities for the construction of new Peace Huts and 18 satellite communities for the establishment of Peace Huts mechanism) -The establishment of functional Peace Huts and Peace Hut mechanism will increase women's participation in conflict management, peacebuilding and local decision-making	-Delay in project startup due Late arrival of funds -Difficulties in identifying local firm to develop Peacebuilding and leadership training curriculum. Hence, UN Women had to advertise internationally which led to the identification of one potential consultant following a rigorous and competitive recruitment process.	
Output 1.1 22 Peace Huts established and functional in the targeted communities and providing space and voice to women and girls	Indicator 1.1.1 # of functional Peace huts	Baseline (Oct 2013): 17 Peace huts established	Target (April 2015): 22 functional Peace huts	-5 central communities identified for the construction of 5 new Peace Huts - locations for new Peace Huts construction identified	-During the assessment to identify project communities an additional community was identified with demonstrated need for project interventions -Delay in project startup due	

				-Hiring of firm to construct 5 new Peace Huts is in process	Late arrival of funds	
Output 1.2 Increased women's skills in advocacy, conflict mediation and community engagement on important issues that affect their lives in the communities	Indicator 1.2.1 # of women leaders and community women with skills in conflict mediation, SGBV referral, advocacy and women's rights	Baseline (Oct 2013): 30 women leaders	Target (April 2015): 3,500 community women (including 90 community women leaders)	-74 Peace Hut Leaders identified (20 Peace Hut leaders from 5 central communities and 54 from 18 satellite communities) -DEN-L contracted to provide ToT for Peace Huts leaders -Recruitment of consultant for the development of Peacebuilding curriculum in process	-Delay in project startup due Late arrival of funds	
Output 1.3 A coalition of women-led gender responsive community peace building structures effectively channels women's security priorities to relevant authorities	Indicator 1.3.1 degree of participation of network and its members from the 22 communities in key regional and national peace building and reform process	Baseline (Oct 2013): None	Target (April 2015): network participating and providing their feedback to consultations and decision-making processes on reconciliation, constitutional reform, land, decentralization, local peace committees, and natural resource management.	-Women structures identified and established in 23 communities during assessment DEN-L contracted to provide training, organize bi-annual coaching and mentoring meetings	-Delay in project startup due Late arrival of funds	

				with peace huts leaders to participate community Peacebuilding.		
Outcome 2 Women and girls in five targeted communities feel secure in their communities and able to engage in their activities without fear of violence	Indicator 2.1 Women's perception of their security in the five targeted communities	Baseline (Oct 2013): data to be collected through survey and focus group discussions in five communities	Target (April 2015): Increase in women's sense of security in their community and decreased threats to bodily harm (% of increase to be confirmed after conducting baseline surveys)	-Peace Huts leaders identified for ToT training in Peacebuilding & Leadership -Recruitment of consultant to develop Peacebuilding curriculum in process -Impact of peace huts initiatives will be evident when Peace Huts are functional and leaders are trained	-Delay in project startup due Late arrival of funds Difficulties in identifying local firm to develop Peacebuilding and leadership training curriculum. Hence, UN Women had to advertise internationally which led to the identification of one potential consultant following a rigorous competitive process -Delay in approval of contract for consultant at UN Women's Regional Office	
	Indicator 2.2 Willingness by community women and men to refer cases of violence against women to the appropriate authorities (including police)	Baseline (Oct 2013): data to be collected through survey and focus group discussions in five communities	Target (April 2015): 50% increase in the number of community men and women willing to refer cases of violence against women to the relevant authorities (% of increase to be confirmed after conducting baseline surveys)	-Five communities identified for construction of Peace Huts -Peace Huts leaders identified for ToT training in peacebuilding & Leadership -Recruitment of consultant to develop Peacebuilding curriculum in process	Delay in approval of contract for consultant at UN Women's Regional Office	

				-Women will feel secure in their communities when leaders are trained and peace huts are functional		
Output 2.1 Male networks established to serve as gender equality champions publicly working to end violence against women and girls in targeted communities by 2015	Indicator 2.1.1 # of men actively engaged in community networks, speaking out against SGBV and promoting gender equality in the five targeted communities	Baseline (Oct 2013): TBD	Target (April 2015): 250 men serving as positive role models with public actions promoting gender equality and ending SGBV in 5 communities	-10 male champions identified from five central communities for TOT in GBV advocacy and referral, women's rights and gender equality -Development of curriculum for male champions in process -Men participating in ToT will establish network and roll out male involvement training to satellite communities	-Delay in project startup due to Late arrival of funds -Delay in identifying implementing partners	
Output 2.2 Women's capacity enhanced to demand effective police responses to women and girls' security threats through the Peace Hut initiative	Indicator 2.2.1 Existence of dialogue forums for community women to engage with local security forces	Baseline (October 2013): None	By April 2015, regular (quarterly or monthly depending on community decision) dialogue forums held between local security institution and community women in five targeted communities	-Peace Huts leaders identified for TOT training in Peacebuilding & Leadership -Recruitment of consultant to develop Peacebuilding curriculum in process	-Delay in project start due to late arrival of funds -Delay in approval of contract for consultant at UN Women's Regional Office	