



**UN EBOLA RESPONSE MPTF
FINAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE REPORT - VERSION 1
DATE: NOVEMBER 2017**

<p align="center">Project Number(s) and Title(s)</p> <p>#15–Social Rehabilitation and Payment to EVD Survivors and Destitute Families</p> <p>Project ID: 00094514</p>	<p align="center">Recipient Organization(s)</p> <p>RUNO(s) Project Focal Point: Name: Sudipto Mukerjee/Ghulam Sherani E-mail: sudipto.mukerjee@undp.org/ ghulam.sherani@undp.org</p>
<p align="center">Strategic Objective & Mission Critical Action(s)</p> <p>SO (STEPP) No – SO3 – Ensure essential service MCA08 –Recovery and Economy</p>	<p align="center">Implementing Partner(s)</p> <p>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) UN WOMEN</p> <p>IMPLEMENTING PARTNER(S): Ministry of Social Welfare, Children and Women Affairs, Pink Cross, Sierra Leone Association of Ebola Survivors (SLAES)</p>
<p>Location:</p> <p>Sierra Leone</p>	<p>Sub-National Coverage Area:</p> <p>Kailahun, Kenema, Moyamba, Bombali, Port-Loko, Tonkolili, Kambia and Koinadugu²</p>
<p align="center">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project proposal document: US\$ 2,108,010 MPTF³: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP – US\$ 1,635,337 • UNWOMEN – US\$ 472,673 <p>Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i></p> </p>	<p align="center">Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration (<i>months</i>) Project Start Date⁴ (12-03-2015)</p> <p>Originally Projected End Date⁵(29-02-2016) Actual End date⁶(31-July-2017)</p> <p>Agency(ies) have operationally closed the programme in its(their) system X Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p>

¹ Refers to programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² The additional two or three? districts of Tonkolili and Koinadugu were added to the project coverage areas due to the relative isolation of such communities and minimum support provided by either NGO agencies or Government Institutions.

³ The amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations – see [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁴ The date of the first transfer of funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. The transfer date is available on the online [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

⁵ As per approval of the original project document by the Advisory Committee.

⁶ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the originally projected end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date, which is the date when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved project have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. Please see [MPTF Office Closure Guidelines](#).

Other Contributions (donors) <i>(if applicable)</i>
TOTAL:
Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.
Evaluation Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: 06-.06-2017
Evaluation Report - Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: 19-07-2017

Expected Financial Closure date ⁷ : 15 March 2018
Report Submitted By
<input type="checkbox"/> Name: Samuel Palmer <input type="checkbox"/> Title: Programme Specialist <input type="checkbox"/> Date of Submission: 22. ^{02.18} <input type="checkbox"/> Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP <input type="checkbox"/> Email address: samuel.palmer@undp.org
<i>Signature:</i>
Report Cleared By
<input type="checkbox"/> Name: Samuel Doe <input type="checkbox"/> Date of Submission: 1 March 2018 <input type="checkbox"/> Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP <input type="checkbox"/> Email address: samuel.doe@undp.org
<i>Signature:</i>

⁷ Financial Closure requires the return of unspent funds and the submission of the [Certified Final Financial Statement and Report](#).

Project Proposal Title: Social Rehabilitation and Payments to EVD Survivors and Destitute Families						
Strategic Objective to which the project contributed	SO 3 Ensure Essential Services MCA8: Recovery and Economy					
MCA [8] ⁸						
Output Indicators	Geographical Area	Target ⁹	Budget	Final Achievements	Means of verification	Responsible Organization(s).
# of survivors and destitute families receiving solidarity kits	5 local councils	Covers need of 500 survivors	100,000	.500 survivors received solidarity kits, comprising of sanitary supplies, food and non-food items	Record of package and distribution	UNDP UNWOMEN MNO
# of survivors and destitute families covered by the social safety nets arrangement (target 2,500)	5 local councils	Covers needs of 2,500 survivors and destitute families for access to social services and food security	450,000	.2,500 survivors and destitute families received monthly stipends and livelihood support packages through their mobile wallets from designated MNO	Mobile Network Operator (MNO) reports	UNDP, UNWOMEN, MNO, Local Councils, MOHS MSWGCA
Survivors receive skills development services	5 local councils	Enables 2,500 survivors and destitute families to recover sustainable livelihoods	1,150,000	.2,500 Survivors received skills development services through trainings and mentorship	IP reports	UNDP, UNWOMEN, MSWG CA

⁸ Project can choose to contribute to all MCA or only the one relevant to its purpose.

⁹ Assuming a ZERO Baseline

PROJECT/PROPOSAL RESULT MATRIX

Effect Indicators	Geographical Area (where the project directly operated)	Baseline ¹⁰ In the exact area of operation	Target	Final Achievements	Means of verification	Responsible Organization(s)
<p><u># of survivors and destitute families socially rehabilitated disaggregated by gender and locations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u># of survivors and destitute families able to access basic social services through solidarity package</u> • <u># of survivors having recovered a sustainable livelihood</u> 	<p><u>5 local councils</u></p>	<p><u>No comprehensive support to survivors and destitute families</u></p>	<p><u>2,500 survivors and destitute families socially re-inserted</u></p>	<p><u>1,454 Survivors and a number of vulnerable families supported and transformed.</u> <u>2,500 Survivors and minors and approved caregivers of minor EVD survivors, received career counselling & skills trainings.</u></p>	<p><u>Mobile Money/IP records</u> <u>Report of solidarity package distribution reports from IPs, business registry</u></p>	<p><u>UNDP, UNWOMEN, MNO, Local Councils, MOHS MSWGCA</u></p>

¹⁰ If data is not available, please explain how it will be collected.

PROJECT SUMMARY

ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES LESSON LEARNED

The first wave of challenges faced by the Government of Sierra Leone, was the management and response to the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak, which lasted for 17 months in the country. With the support of specialized partners and the international community, the epidemic was contained and eventually eliminated. On 7th November 2015, Sierra Leone was declared Ebola free, by World Health Organization.

The second wave was related to gaps in the government's preparedness to manage issues surrounding EVD survivors, namely, re-integration and economic empowerment, medical side effects because of the infection, malnutrition, social marginalization and the deplorable living conditions in which EVD survivors lived; making them more susceptible to the disease.

The project indeed faced challenges especially within the context of acquiring the Government recognized list of EVD survivors, which affected implementation start date. Nevertheless, a total of 1,454 survivors and many vulnerable families have been supported and transformed. The project re-instated human dignity, passion and self-worth/esteem to vulnerable EVD survivors which inadvertently supported the Government in minimizing social tensions and dependency on government line Ministries, for much required support through the provision of:

- *Psycho-social support and counselling
- *Solidarity package
- * Stipend Cash Transfers
- *Livelihood Career counselling and start-up grants transfers

500 families received a one-off discharge package that contained assorted food and non-food items, ranging from mattresses, kitchen utensils to canned food considered for immediate family recovery kits, within the local context, to cushion the impact of the loss/destruction of all personal effects; as an Ebola containment measure.

Customizing digital cash transfer mechanism using a Mobile Network Operator (MNO), this project ensured that 2,500 project beneficiaries received their periodic stipends which enabled them to access social services and ensure food security for their families.

Alongside the cash distribution, with the support of livelihood specialized partners, 2,500 adult EVD survivors and approved caregivers of minor EVD survivors received career counselling, refresher and skills acquisition trainings to enable beneficiaries transition smoothly into economic self-reliance with the provision of a one-off livelihood grant.

Notwithstanding the latter, EVD survivors who were minors, received counselling, school materials and stipends to meet additional school going expenses. Considering the sensitivity surrounding the project, the

Sierra Leone government, through the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs made a request to UNDP, for further adjustments to be made on the existing list of beneficiaries, which subsequently affected the

1. Geographical Coverage- The project was initially planned to be implemented in 6 districts but was later expanded to 8 districts.
2. Planned implementation: UNDP was restricted to provide services only to EVD survivors and not to extend to destitute families, while UNWOMEN was restricted to render services to only female EVD survivors EVD related destitute families.

No. of Beneficiaries	
Women	854
Girls	N/A
Men	600
Boys	N/A
Total	1,454

Environmental Markers
e.g. Medical and Bio Hazard Waste
e.g. Chemical Pollution

Project achievements and results may include:

- Creation of a mini-database on validated vulnerable survivors that contain individual photos and copy of survivor's discharge certificates for further confirmation
- Development of simple complaint resolution procedures, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) - these manuals have been used to inform beneficiaries, Implementing Partners and the public, about all related processes involved during project implementation stages.
- Successfully completed all UNDP allocated stipend transfers within the review period to 1,667 beneficiaries.
- Through the willingness of project beneficiaries 1, 485 adult survivors/caregivers have been guided in their selection of sustainable income generating activities through career counselling sessions.

Best Practice and Summary Evaluation:

Digital payment has proven to be an effective tool to conduct cash transfers/allocations, even in post crisis/recovery situations, such as the case in Sierra Leone. The following are the fundamental pillars that gradually culminated to successful implementation of this project:

- Development of a comprehensive project database of beneficiaries: The project team conducted series of validation exercises that formed the foundation for the development of mini project database.
- Since available project resources cannot adequately cater for every survivor, in consultation with the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children Affairs (MSWGCA), the project team developed

eligibility criteria that gives survivors within operational districts, a fair chance to qualify for the benefits which significantly reduced tensions.

- Establishment of a simple grievance resolution mechanism to receive and respond to payment queries/concerns/enquiries.
- National Ownership: Because the need was evident, the Government of Sierra Leone through the MSWGCA, took the lead in ensuring that all project activities were implemented smoothly.

Delays or Deviation:

Delays in the submission of the comprehensive beneficiary list for UNWOMEN was crucial to the success of the project as a whole, but due to slight delays of such information, this posed some implementation challenges even for the MSWGCA. This was however resolved with the help of UNDP to carefully analyze and collate the data, in order to avoid duplication and double counting of beneficiaries who received support from both organizations.

Lessons learned:

- Digital cash transfer remains to be an economical and effective tool that can be customized and used for cash administration projects to beneficiaries.
- For projects that provide similar services to vulnerable beneficiaries it is recommended that a simple but effective grievance management system is maintained to help defuse tensions and misunderstandings, during implementation.
- For projects of such nature, it would be advisable to avoid/ minimize geographical operational overlaps especially when implemented by more than one agency.
- The strong need for cordial government partnership is crucial, though it has both negative and positive implications on project implementation. Political interests of stakeholders in the project management also proved to be cumbersome (major delays in implementation and deviations from project scope were experienced)

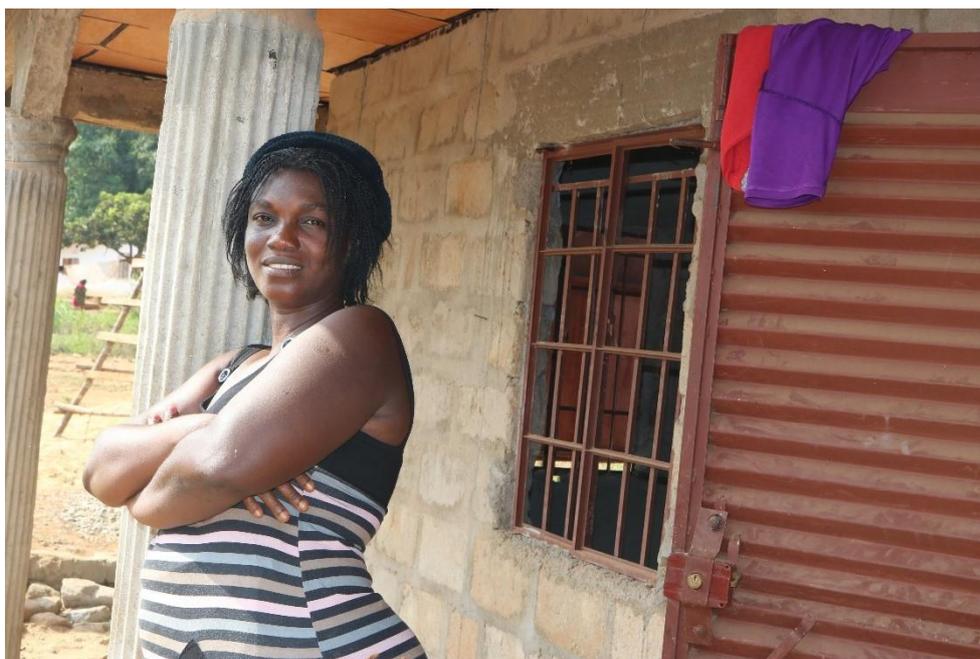
The manner in which the project was designed, though complex but covered the range of needs of the beneficiaries re-integrated into their communities. A blend of psycho-social and livelihood support (trainings, conditional and unconditional cash support) accorded project beneficiaries the dignity they deserve in order to bring them to the state of resilience and self-reliant.

Story on the Ground:

- ❖ Sheik Ibrahim Conteh - father and caregiver of Sama Conteh. Here is what he noted “I lost my wife during the Ebola Epidemic and she left me with three children”. Sama Conteh who is my eldest

daughter was also affected with the virus, but I thank God she survived. Life was very hard for me as I was not working or doing anything after the Ebola period to take care of these children. When I started receiving the UNDP livelihood support for Sama, I had a piece of land which I decided to farm on - growing pepper. I used some of the money from the 3 tranches of cash transfers to buy seedlings only and the rest of the money to support Sama's school expenses. When I received the final livelihood cash transfer, part of it was saved at EcoBank and the rest was used to buy farming tools, additional seedlings and hired labor, to expand the farm site, to cultivate more pepper. At the end of every week when pepper was harvested, local traders would buy pepper from me and I earned Le 100,000. Sheik affirmed that he is currently able to adequately take care of his family, as a result of the support received from UNDP Social Rehabilitation and Payment to Ebola Survivors livelihood support.

- ❖ Yerreh Koroma has increased her business venture, since the final tranche payment of the livelihood support, received from UNDP. Yerreh had a complication after surviving the Ebola epidemic and falls ill frequently. However, since she received the final tranche payment of livelihood support, there has been massive improvement in her health condition. She expressed many thanks and appreciation to UNDP for the help given to her. She has started selling assorted food items, ranging from bottled soft drinks and juices to personally effects. She has also invested part of the money into palm oil trade. Yerreh has further opened a small shop at the front of her house, which keeps her busy and happy.



- ❖ After getting the virus from a patient she treated at the hospital, and later losing her husband to the virus, Francess was desperately looking for a safe place to stay, left alone with four kids. With the UNDP/MPTF support, Francess is building a house (see photo) and is sending her 4 children to school; thanks to a business she started from the Social Rehabilitation and Payment to EVD Survivors and Destitute Families project. Francess is very happy to own a home.



- ❖
- ❖ Abibatu (right) and Haja (left) first lost their eldest brother, a medical surgeon and when their father and second elder brother visited the sick brother, they too got infected, and the virus took over their home. Having lost their parents and two brothers, the sisters survive to conquer.
- ❖ With funds from UNDP/MPTF, they both are receiving support to enhance their family life. Haja is running a small business, which supports her education in College. They both hope to open an orphanage for homeless children in their community.
- ❖