



**Sierra Leone Multi-Donor Trust Fund**  
**ANNUAL PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup> NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT**  
**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2011**

Programme Title & Number
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme Title: <i>Improving Access to Justice in Sierra Leone</i></li> <li>• Programme Number (if applicable): <i>00059959</i></li> <li>• MDTF Office Atlas Number:</li> </ul>

Country, Locality(s), Thematic Area(s) <sup>2</sup>
(if applicable): <i>Sierra Leone, Justice and Security</i>

Participating Organization(s)
<i>UNDP Sierra Leone</i>

Implementing Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National counterparts (government, private, NGOs &amp; others) and other International Organizations:</li> </ul> <p><i>Judiciary, Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs, Sierra Leone Police, Civil society organisations (CSOs), JSCO and International Organizations, including UNIPSIL, UNICEF</i></p>

Programme/Project Cost (US\$)
MDTF Fund Contribution: <i>by Agency applicable): US\$172,094</i>
Agency Contribution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i></li> </ul>
Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i>
Other Contribution (donor) <i>(if applicable)</i>
<b>TOTAL:</b>

Programme Duration (months)
Overall Duration: <b>Six Months</b>
Start Date <sup>3</sup> <b>August, 2011</b>
End Date or Revised End Date, <i>(if applicable)</i> <b>July, 2012</b>
Operational Closure Date <sup>4</sup> Expected

<sup>1</sup> The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

<sup>2</sup> Priority Area for the Peacebuilding Fund; Sector for the UNDG ITF.

<sup>3</sup> The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MDTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MDTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org) (<http://mdtf.undp.org>).

<sup>4</sup> All activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MDTF programme have been completed. Agencies to advise the MDTF Office.

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Financial Closure Date
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<b>Programme Assessments/Mid-Term Evaluation</b>
Assessment Completed - if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: _____
Mid-Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: _____

<b>Submitted By</b>
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## **NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT**

### **I. Purpose**

- Provide the main outputs and outcomes/objectives of the programme.

The overall aim of the programme is to contribute to Sierra Leone's current peace consolidation programme through enhancing access to justice for the population. Its design is informed by the Government of Sierra Leone Justice Sector Reform Strategy & Investment Plan, (JSRSIP) 2008-2010 which is currently being reviewed for 2011 – 2013 and it complements the Government of Sierra Leone's 'Agenda for Change' (PRSP II) and the United Nations Joint Vision for Sierra Leone, both of which set consolidation of peace in Sierra Leone as their priority objective.

Specifically, the programme seeks to foster an effective, responsive, accessible and fair justice systems, promote the rule of law, including both formal and informal processes, with due consideration on the rights of the poor, women and vulnerable groups. Its strategy employs a two-pronged approach of strengthening capacities of both the 'supply and demand sides of justice' as expressed in the following key outputs which the project intends to achieve:

1. *Strengthened state capacity for efficient justice service delivery*
2. *Enhanced civil society capacity to elicit accountability for justice service delivery*

- Explain how the Programme relates to the Strategic (UN) Planning Framework guiding the operations of the Fund/JP.

The programme relates to the Justice and Security components of the PBF Priority Plan, which seeks to capacitate the Justice system to ensure improved delivery of justice services to the population and discourage the tendencies for a relapse to conflict.

The need for a reformed and strengthened justice system was clearly evident following Sierra Leone's 11 years brutal conflict which was largely attributed to the problem of inaccessibility to justice services by majority of the population. The Access to Justice Programme therefore has been a response to the need for improved access to justice for vulnerable people especially those who are resident in rural communities and constitutes the largest of the country's population.

The continuous relevance of the programme is justified by the fact that post-conflict Sierra Leone is still being challenged by a number of the issues including the prevalence of incidences of sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) perpetrated mainly against women. The criminal procedure through which redress is sought is often expensive and as a result limits the ability of victims to seek and obtain remedies through the formal justice systems. On a regular basis, women and young girls fall victims of rape, unlawful carnal knowledge, indecent assault, harboring, procurement, abuse of young girls, among others. Also, the capacity of formal justice system cannot effectively and efficiently meet the demand for speedy adjudication of cases due to limited infrastructure and legal personnel. Though some improvements have been made in the efforts at harmonizing customary or traditional justice

system with international human rights norms and standards as a result of previous engagements, the system equally presents critical challenges to the advancing women's rights to access justice in rural communities.

## II. Resources

### *Financial Resources:*

The PBF compliments funding received by UNDP for the Access to Justice Programme. The PB Funds were necessary to cover critical gaps in the programme.

A good practice that is worth mentioning is in connection with the financial procedure undertaken for the disbursement of grants to CSOs which were guided by the prerequisite of micro-capital grants (MCGs) developed between CSOs and UNDP for the delivery of key project outputs. This ensured timely delivery of activities as well as processing of payments which was made possible through the submission of relevant supporting documents to justify payments by CSOs

In relation to constraints encountered during implementation there were considerable delays in receiving the PBF funds because of the fact that UNDP was not directly communicating with the donor and going through a lead agency involved numerous protocols. This also had implications for the timely implementation of activities. In future, it will be relevant to ensure direct communication between donor and recipient institutions to allow the latter facilitate timely delivery of project activities as detailed in the AWP.

### *Human Resources:*

**Programme:** 1 Rule of Law Officer, 1 Programme Assistant,

**Operations:** 1 Procurement Officer

**Programme:** Project Manager, UNV (Programme Associate)

## III. Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

DIM modality was utilised in the implementation processes. Strategic guidance to programme implementation was provided by the Justice Sector Coordination forum (JSC) which is made up of both national and international justice sector development partners including UNDP, UNIPSIL and UNICEF, chaired by the Minister of Justice. Also, the National Committee on Gender-Based Violence (NAC GBV) served as a pivotal mechanism that provided technical guidance to the implementation process. From time to time, these fora were convened when necessary to discuss, review progress and respond to coordination issues and challenging situations in implementation of various programmes. Furthermore, micro-capital grant agreements (MCGs) were developed with CSOs to support victims and vulnerable women with livelihood and economic empowerment skills as well as raising awareness of rural communities in SGBV and legal matters, women's rights and subsequently provided support to victims of SGBV.

The monitoring systems that are being utilised to ensure effective implementation of the programme were through regular reviews of both narrative and financial reports produced on a quarterly basis by the Programme Management team for the attention of senior management as well as review of progress at programme coordination level. The progress o quarterly reports also detailed best practices, challenges and constraint and lessons learnt for

consideration and refocusing of programme strategies. In November, 2011, the CSO Monitoring Officer conducted a nationwide monitoring of all 14 CSOs that were implementing micro-capital grants (MCGs) and in April, 2012, a two-phase monitoring trip was undertaken all with the objective of identifying issues/challenges, best practices that could be useful to improve on the subsequent process of MCG management.

## **IV. Results**

### ***CSOs capacitated to meet victims' economic empowerment needs.***

With regard to this output target, two (2) civil society organisations (CSOs) including The German Kooperation- Sierra Leone (GEKO-SL) and WOCEGAR out of fourteen (14) that were awarded grants supported livelihood and economic empowerment programmes driven by the consideration that women in the targeted communities are in an extremely low economic status when compared to men and this increases their vulnerability to sexual and gender-based violence. The German Kooperation- Sierra Leone (GEKO-SL) operated in four (4) communities including Rogbin, Rosota, Rossana and Madina in Sanda Taindaren Chiefdom where it supported livelihood skills training in agricultural production, gari processing and petty trading for vulnerable women and girls. WOCEGAR supported management training for women doing petty trading and provided them with fund to engage in various trading activities in Kathirie and Masankorie communities in Sella Limba Chiefdom. A total of thirty (30) participants within the age group of 25 to 40 years benefitted from the training.

It is anticipated that these economic activities will be extremely relevant in terms of ensuring increased and improved household income thereby reducing household poverty, increased access to legal remedies for acts of violence and sexual abuses, reduced level of vulnerability to SGBV and ultimately increased security for women.

### ***Improved capacity of Judges and Magistrates on SGBV issues***

With regard to the judges colloquia, continuous engagements have been held with the judiciary and other interested partners specifically GIZ for effective planning of the Judges Colloquium were made. A draft concept note was developed and sent to the judiciary for review and input. Delays on the part of the judiciary which was overwhelmed with other important activities led to a decision for postponing the activity to 2012. The aim of this activity is to encourage a conversation with judges on how they can better apply international human rights standard, which though considered good, are not being adequately referenced by the courts because of the thought that it contradicts the national constitution which is the supreme law of the land.

### ***Capacity of women's organisation strengthened to raise awareness legal assistance to victims and their families to seek justice***

In September, 2011, twelve women-interest CSOs benefited from grants across the country CSOs to facilitate effective response to SGBV crimes. Specifically, the CSOs supported community awareness raising in SGBV and legal matters, women's rights and subsequently provided support to victims of SGBV to increase the possibility of securing a court conviction from an environment that is prone to compromising SGBV matters due to

customary and cultural beliefs that negative the role of women as development partners. Between September and December 2011, CSO Grantees supported 127 SGBV victims enhancing the victims' capacity to access justice remedies and in the process secured five (5) convictions (Monitoring Report of CSOs Grantees, 2011). A review of progress on grant implementation indicated the following key achievements.

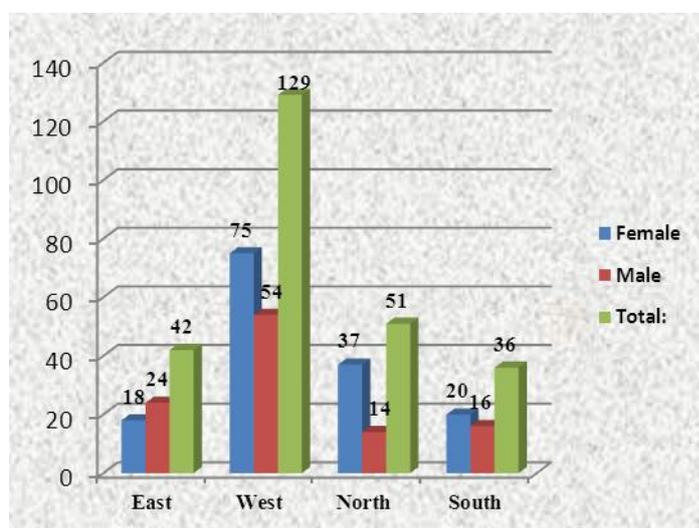
- Sustained engagement and training of traditional leaders on issues relating to the gender laws
- Established eight (8) functional mechanism for referral of SGBV cases through chieftdom focal persons by CSOs providing direct victims' support
- A total of 1,300 houses were covered with a population of 1900 people reached in Kaningo and Pipeline communities in Freetown with messages on SGBV and responses to abuses and violations
- A total of 1000 anti-SGBV posters were developed to draw attention on the negative effects of SGBV occurrences such as rape, wife battering, assault, sexual harassment
- Forty-six (46) Community Animators were selected from the membership of the Kaningo and Pipeline Development Organizations and support with basic orientation on issues SGBV and basic concept in gender.
- Four (4) communities including Maforkie New Town, Magbeni, Rotal and Rufaia benefitted from an Inter-Generational Dialogues (IGD) organised from 19th and 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011 in the Port Loko. This activity was meant to influence change in key stakeholders who were educated on the dangers related to traditional practices. The meeting brought together Mamie Queens, Soweis, Section Chiefs and community residents. A total number of 80 people were on attendance with 55 women and 35 men.
- The IGD was also complemented by massive information campaign on female genital mutilation (FGM) in rural communities and engagement with women FGM practitioners and traditional decision makers through a dialogue-based approach. As a result young girls willingly and openly talk about the practice of FGM and express their unwillingness to be subjected to it at a tender age
- A total of 44 participants from 19 CSO also benefitted from the IGD and recruited as community facilitators of change using through the IGD approach. These CSOs are also providing assistance in monitoring the ban on Child FGM in Port Loko district. 42 participants were trained.
- The IGD reached a targeted population of 1,083 (602 male and 482 female) in Port Loko District

### ***Improved capacity of FSU on SGBV case management***

Limited capacity of law enforcement officers especially the FSU personnel to effectively manage SGBV cases to their logical conclusion often inhibits victims' access to justice. This

provided a rationale for UNDP’s intervention as always, to build capacities of national institutions. Four 2-days trainings on the new ‘SGBV Case Management Guidelines’ were conducted for the first batch of FSU officers in the regional headquarter cities of Makeni, Bo, Kenema and Freetown for those in Western Area on 9 – 10<sup>th</sup>; 13 – 14<sup>th</sup>; 17 – 18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2011 respectively.

### Gender Composition of Participants



The SGBV Case Management Guidelines developed and published by UNDP in collaboration with the Sierra Leone Police (SLP), provides detailed guidance on the handling of SGBV offences from reporting stage on to prosecution, and as such, the training was intended to enhance the capacity of the FSU to be able to respond effectively to incidents of sexual offence in order to address the problem of impunity around such offences.

14 women-interest organizations provided with grants to promote awareness of SGBV and the Gender laws at the community level and provide legal assistance, as well as transportation, medical services, and shelter facilities for victims and their families as well as support livelihood and empowerment skills of victims including:

- 2 CSOs to support victims of sexual violence and vulnerable women and girls with livelihood and economic empowerment skills
- 12 CSOs to raise awareness on the 3 Gender Justice Laws, SGBV and provide legal assistance to victims and their families to seek justice

Supported four (4) trainings of FSU personnel in Makeni, Bo, Kenema and Freetown for officers in the provinces and Western Area on the new ‘SGBV Case Management Guidelines’. A total of 258 participants (108 male and 150 female) attended (see annex 1 for photo of participants in Southern Province)

There were considerable delays in receiving the PBF funds for the SGBV grants. This was due to interagency administrative processes between UNFPA and UNDP. As a result, the SGBV grants implementation delayed. As a response, UNDP pre-financed activities with core funds while the matter was being resolved to allow for activities to start.

Although the project continues to maintain its relevance, which is itself derived from national priorities as contained in the JSRISP, as revised 2011, UN Joint Vision and UNDP global strategy of Rule of law, 2008 - 2011, and regular contextual analysis by staff, funding constraints resulted into a pragmatic approach whereby the project staffing was downsized considerably thereby placing a serious burden on the few project staff that were available in

ensuring timely implementation of project activities. Furthermore, funding uncertainty delayed finalization of the project's annual work plan for an extended period of time and consequently implementation of project activities some of which were postponed to 2012. However, resource mobilisation efforts were intensified, a revised project document finalised and used as resource mobilisation tool which attracted additional funding support from UNDP.

- List the key partnerships and collaborations, and explain how such relationships impact on the achievement of results.
- JSC team comprised various national and international development partners: facilitated coordination and harmonisation of support to the justice sector institutions and programmes.
- NAC GBV facilitated coordination and harmonisation of support meant as response to SGBV issues
- UN JVP 2 & 17
- CSOs

A key lesson learnt was that ensuring sustained partnership and participation in activities with relevant stakeholders will optimize achievement of desired results. With regards to this, the project ensured continued collaboration with sister UN agencies, government and other international and local CSOs in project implementation to complement efforts and ensure harmony of existence. These partnerships led to successful delivery of joint project activities and successful resource mobilisation efforts. Some specific examples are as follows:

Collaboration with sister agencies within UN Joint Vision Programmes 2 and 17 have led to a joint resource mobilisation efforts through development of project on SGBV with grant from the PBF and another application to the UNTFVAW. A more structured SGBV coordination mechanisms within the UNCT has been established under the leadership of UNFPA.

The programme successfully led the UN Joint Vision Programme 2 with the result of several ongoing joint or complementary initiatives. The curriculum finalisation and pedagogical workshop which climaxed into the launching of a Post-graduate MSc. In Human Rights and Conflict Resolution was jointly supported by members of JVP 2. Other collaborative efforts are being made on support to the passage of the Sexual Offences Act and support to the HRC-SL exercise of its quasi-judicial functions.

The programme also continued to participate on the Justice Sector Donor Coordination Group, the NAC-GBV and the Development Partners Group on Access to Justice led by IRC.

Before relocation to Freetown, the regional offices continued to ensure active participation in DISEC and PROSEC which are regional security fora to provide appropriate response to issues that have potential impact on the security of the districts and provinces respectively. Issues of SGBV are also discussed in these fora for collective response and commitment to the protection of women.

In all project activities, considerations were given to cross cutting issues like gender and human rights to maximize impact and to ensure sustainability of effort:

Efforts were made to ensure adequate representation and mainstreaming of gender component in all project activities. These included highlighting the relevance of broad based participation and adequate gender representation.

Conscious attempts were made to ensure a rights-based approach was undertaken in all dimensions of the project. For example, traditional authorities were engaged on the importance of human rights, its relevance and how it would ensure protection of women and their children.

- Provide an assessment of the programme/ project based on performance indicators as per approved project document using the template in Section VIII, if applicable.

## **V. Future Work Plan (if applicable)**

### Activities to be continued in 2012

1. *Facilitate second tranche payment of 20% to CSO grantees:*
2. *Conduct training encounters with judges and magistrates on SGBV and Gender Justice*

- Indicate any major adjustments in strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs planned.

## **Annex 1**

Photo of participants in Southern Province



*Principal State Counsel facilitating training for FSU Police Investigators in Southern Province*