

**SL-MDTF**

**Final programme[[1]](#footnote-1) NARRATIVE report**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 january 2010 – 31 DECEMBER 2012**

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| Programme Title & Project Number | |  | Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results[[2]](#footnote-2) | |
| Programme Title: Rural Community Empowerment  Programme Number: UNJV Programme 18.   * MPTF Office Project Reference Number:[[3]](#footnote-3)00075576 Rural Community UNDP * 00075578 Rural Empowerment FAO * 00075577 Empowering PLH UNAIDS * 00075580 Gender-based Violence UNFPA * 00075579 Solar Powered Business Platforms, UNIDO * 00075581 Support Rural UN Women | | Sierra Leone, country wide | |
| * *Priority area/ strategic results :*   Joint Vision Priority Area 2: Integrating Rural Areas into the National Economy | |
| Participating Organization(s) | |  | Implementing Partners | |
| * Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme   UNDP (co-lead)  FAO (co-lead)  UNAIDS  UNFPA  UNIDO  UN Women | | National counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others) and other International Organizations   * Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS) Smallholder Commercialization Programme * Ministry of Education, Science and Technology * Ministry of Energy and Water Resources * Ministry of Internal Affairs * Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs * Ministry of Health and Sanitation * Local Councils * Civil Society Organizations * Traditional and Religious Leaders * Network Of HIV Positives in Sierra Leone (NETHIPS) * Council of Women Councilors * Sierra Leone Female Parliamentarians (SLFPAC) * NGOs | |
| Programme/Project Cost (US$) | |  | Programme Duration | |
| Total approved budget as per project document: $ 1,568,160.00  MPTF /JP Contribution[[4]](#footnote-4):  UNDP $396,000  FAO $554,400  UNAIDS $142,560  UNFPA $158,400  UNIDO $158,400  UN Women $158,400   * *by Agency (if applicable)* |  |  | Overall Duration *(months)28 Mths* |  |
| Agency Contribution   * *by Agency (if applicable)* |  |  | Start Date[[5]](#footnote-5) *24/06/10* |  |
| Government Contribution  *(if applicable) N/A* |  |  | Original End Date*[[6]](#footnote-6)* *:31/12/11* |  |
| Other Contributions (donors)  *(if applicable)N/A* |  |  | Current End date[[7]](#footnote-7)*31/12/12* |  |
| TOTAL: |  |  |  |  |
| Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval. | |  | Report Submitted By | |
| Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach*  Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*  Mid-Term Evaluation Report *– if applicable please attach*  Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy* | | * Name:David Mwesigwa * Title:Programme Implementation Officer * Participating Organization (Lead):UNFAO * Email address:David.Mwesigwa@fao.org | |

# NARRATIVE REPORT

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The programme in summary were able to get the following achievements under the reporting period in collaboration with the sister agencies ;

**UNDP- Rural Community Empowerment**: 32’’ HD plasma Televisions and DVDs were procured and distributed to targeted community schools across the country and further trained 60 school staff in installation of bulk solar panel voltaic cell(SPVC) modules and accessories.

**UNFAO- Rural Empowerment**: Several of trainings were conducted in leadership and team building for traditional leader, women leaders, young men, young women thereby bridging the gap between the elders and the youth in decision making in tradition settings. Twenty (20) water wells were constructed and training done on hygiene and sanitation in deprived community in the Bo,Kenema and Pujehun Districts to address the water cries in their communities.

**UNAIDS- Empowering PLHIV**: 120 beneficiaries received seed funds for income generating activities. The target of 40% increased in family income in real terms were determined through consultations with sister agencies who have considerable experience in income generating activities in Sierra Leone.

**UNFPA- Gender Based Violence(GBV)** :500 community stakeholders were sensitized on GBV prevention and management,63 community advocacy and mobilization group formed across the country.

**UNIDO- Solar Powered Business Platform**: Six(6) training centers across the country received installation of solar system and powered equipments(computers,freezers,fans,audio visual equipment) .

**UN Women-Supporting Rural Women**: Several trainings in leadership skills, empowerment,etc. were conducted for rural women at different levels in collaboration with council of women councilors and FAO.

# Purpose

UN Joint Vision programme 18 was designed to ensure participation of rural men and women in community-based development programmes that affect their livelihoods, such as access to adult education, market opportunities, communication networks and financial services through community-level and district-level support centres and farmer schools. The programme also assisted communities to upgrade local markets and helped in the negotiations for better and more secure access to traditional land in rural and town areas. The programme ensured that gender equity and women’s empowerment issues were mainstreamed in decision-making and service delivery.

1. **Results**

* **Specific outcomes/outputs/deliverables of the MDTF-funded projects under this programme are discussed under** **each agency:**

Rural Community Empowerment-UNDP

UNDP partnered with Multichoice International (SL) Limited, UNIDO, MEST, MHWI, District Education Inspectorate Offices, Principals of Senior Secondary Schools and other private companies in the planning and implementation process of the school satellite TV education project.

In relation to the planned output, the following were achieved :

*Activity 1. The procurement of 32” HD Plasma TVs and DVD recorders:*

UNDP Sierra Leone’s Project Implementation Support Unit (PISU) approved and awarded the procurement and supply of the thirty (30) DVD recorders/players and thirty (30) 32 inch HD Plasma TVs for the targeted selected schools countrywide in 2010.

*Activity 2. Supply, training and installation of bulk SPVC modules and accessories****:***

The contracts for the supply and installation of the SPVC modules and accessories as well as the training for sixty (60) staff of the targeted Senior Secondary Schools countrywide were completed .

*Activity 3. Procurement of additional equipment (TVs, DVD recorders and blank DVD RWs):* There was also delay in the arrival of the TVs and DVD recorders/players, which finally reached Sierra Leone in December 2010. However, this delay did not adversely affect project implementation since clarifications with UNDP’s global PSO were still ongoing with regard to the design and specifications for the Invitation to Bid exercise to commence.Installation works commenced in early 2011.

UNDP focused on the strategy and financing of the services The project directly contributed to the achievement of outcomes set out in the Sierra Leone Education Development Plan (2007 - 2015) by targeting Senior Secondary Schools, It enabled Senior Secondary Schools to have access to global education programmes via satellite TV to achieve improved connectivity (internet and satellite TV) in rural communities facilitated by public private partnership. The project achieved its objectives through a Public-Private Partnership between UNDP and Multichoice International (SL) Limited that provided schools with educational TV programming at no cost as part of the company’s Community Social Initiatives programme. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) approved the satellite TV channels from an educational point of view and was lessons learnt. The beneficiary Senior Secondary Schools were selected by MEST who were also responsible for the arrangement of schools to take full responsibility of the care and maintenance of the system. The solar powered system was designed by technicians from the Ministry of Energy and Power and verified by the technical expert from UNIDO. The system was powered by solar generated electricity and as a result, there were no operating costs and powered by solar generated electricity. The only envisaged cost will be the replacement of a new battery once every three years. In addition to this and in conjunction with the recent government tender for solar powered street lights, the project helped stimulate the private sector to become more engaged and aware of renewable energy alternatives. The plan set out to improve the quality of Senior Secondary education nationwide through support to the overall enhancement of the quality of teaching and learning environments, characterized by the following improvements;

* Schools with more aides and teacher guides that are in use;
* Partnerships with companies providing internet facilities;
* Provision of a television and DVD recorder/player for viewing ‘master teachers’ sample lessons;
* Provision of solar power facilities to each school.

This intervention was carried out alongside the installment of satellite TV in 150 Agriculture Business Centres (ABUs) implemented by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

Rural Empowerment-FAO

This component was to strengthen local leadership and to encourage them to take a more active role in community-based actions – the essence of empowerment. The planned leadership forums were linked to community actions in collaborations with UNDP, UNAIDS, UNHCR UNFPA, UN WOMEN and UNIDO. These actions were thus linked to the national activities of the SCP. Specifically, during the period of the project, local leaders received support to undertake local community actions motivated through aspects of the leadership programme and related government actions. A measurable change in knowledge, attitude and practices was visible even during this short period of the DAO but also expressed through their related government and community supported activities with the following outcomes and objectives;

* Outcome 1: Paramount chief’s and local council leaders engaged in policy debates in a structured manner.
* Outcome 2: Implementation of community identified actions programme for rural development.
* Outcome 3: Improved sense of self-determination, dignity and positive future

Ultimately this portion of Program 18 is an example of the social development of a nation through the empowerment and training of its future and current rural leadership.

“Leadership especially for those dwelling in rural areas do not have the required training and sensitization that will capacitate them to better understand their roles and responsibilities in their different communities and how they should work with these communities to build social cohesion which is very necessary for rural and national development especially in the agricultural sector.”

Abdul Kamara, Youth Leader Port Loko District Nov 2010

In a changing world, leadership is exceptionally important to keep rural communities thriving. However, with changes come opportunities for growth as well as all other areas of concern. Participants from the UN Joint Vision 2010 Leadership Forums agreed that the leadership forum had indeed enhanced their knowledge of global issues and best practices to address some of these issues. Pre and post forum assessment showed that participants were now more aware of the global issues highlighted by the various UN presenters that could impact leadership and communities. However, they emphasized that to maintain the health, sustainability, vibrancy and well-being of their communities there is a need to develop current and emerging leaders. The following also resulted from the forums;

* + Implementation of leadership forums separately for traditional leaders and district council leaders, women leaders, young men and young women in line with Outcome 1.
  + Community based activities through local action planning and implementation by each forum participant but related to their linkages to the SCP and other community projects, in line with Output 2.
  + An improved sense of self determination was achieved by participants in addition to a strong sense of pride for Sierra Leone and positive outlook for the future despite challenges, falling in line with Outcome 3. This Output was measured through a pre and post KAP test.

Twenty(20) water wells were constructed in deprived community in Bo,Kenema and Pujehun Districts as part of further support to rural people and trainings conducted in hygiene and sanitation.

In addition to the results, the following recommendations were made;

*The Role of Women*

1. Participants agreed that women’s role in agriculture is well accepted nationally; the aftermath of the war and increasing out-migration from rural communities of youth has led to an increase in feminization in agriculture sector. However, majority of women do not have ownership over land and other means of production. Therefore, women are not recognized as autonomous farmers and their participation is limited to the production and not on ownership and decision. This lack of access undermines women’s entrepreneurship competence and leadership position.
2. National policy provisions are subtle in the inclusion of women in the production and market processes. However, access to necessary means of production such as land, credit, information, technology are either very limited or isolated even when efforts are made. There is therefore a dire need for reorientation of the understanding of inclusive agricultural development where women's leadership is recognized and ensured.

*Rural Human Resources*

1. A key issue raised by participants is the need to expose community leaders to empowerment initiatives. They urge UN agencies to invest in human infrastructure in the rural communities. People are a community’s most essential resource, without which development cannot happen. Community and organization leaders must be well prepared with broad-based knowledge and leadership skills and understanding to participate in local, provincial, national and international discussions. Rural communities need resources to develop the capacity of their people to meet current economic challenges, and capitalize on new opportunities.

*Emphasis on Youth Development*

1. It was quite evident that the young people (those who met the selection criteria) were more engaged and better suited to benefit and articulate the goals and objectives of the Joint Vision Training Forum. This observation suggests that there is a need for more engagement in leadership and empowerment opportunities for young people in Sierra Leone. Furthermore, there ought to be an adequate and effective oversight mechanism that would ensure that when young people are provided opportunities for empowerment that the program beneficiary is consistent with the target population.

*A Monitoring Culture*

1. A peer mentoring system and the introduction of a culture of monitoring, evaluation, self-assessment and accountability is needed. During the visioning exercise, much was said about monitoring of NGOs and other organizations but monitoring did not feature in the community project proposals that were developed

*Team Building and Promotion of National Identity*

1. There was overwhelming evidence from the evaluation participants had a strong sense of pride for Sierra Leone. On the pre-evaluation questionnaire 34 of 35 respondents attest that they are proud to be Sierra Leoneans. And in a related question “I would rather live abroad than in Sierra Leone”, 21 of the 35 respondents on the pre-evaluation questionnaire either disagreed or strongly disagreed, while on the post-evaluation 26 of 35 disagreed or strongly disagreed, showing a slight but important evidence of growth in participants appreciation for their nationality.

Notwithstanding the positive outputs, there was a concern during the visioning activity that suggests that there is need for more team building, national unity, consensus and capacity building effort to assist the young people in actualizing their vision for Sierra Leone. The need for this type of engagement was made obvious when some group members quarreled over the site (in what particular region of Sierra Leone) to be selected for their group project. It was evident that some group members were concerned about regionalizing their intervention strategies rather than the preferred interest for nation building and development of national identity. Moreover, members could have also reached a more viable solution if they had employed a better approach to decision-making, grounded in objectivity, inclusiveness and consensus building.

Empowering PLHIV – Support Groups in Rural Settings-UNAIDS

The purpose of the project was to empower and accelerate the socio-economic self-sufficiency of existing PLHIV (People living with HIV) Support Groups within Rural Communities through improved employment opportunities and income generating activities fitting in with and making use of local resources. In line with the UN Joint Vision for Sierra Leone (Strategic UN Framework for Sierra Leone) the project was guided by the UN Joint Vision benchmarks of the JV programme priority Integrating Rural Areas

It is also important to note that in line with UNAIDS mandate to support the Three Ones Principles, the Project worked within existing national frameworks on HIV including: One Policy Framework; One Coordinating Mechanism and One Monitoring and Evaluation system; in particular guided by the National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS 2006-2010 objective 9.1.: Improve the capacity of families (boys, girls, women and men) and communities to provide care and support for PLHIV.

The project involved a two-track approach, on the one hand providing direct seed funds for income generating and livelihood activities, on the other hand, identified PLHIV Support Groups were supported with appropriate administrative training and their capacities strengthened with proper management and implementation skills. More specifically the project deliverables include:

* Eight PLHIV Support Groups (40 People) trained in administrative, financial and operational management
* Eight PLHIV Support Groups (40 People) located nationwide provided with direct seed funds for income generating activities

Against both the project deliverables and the overall guiding objectives the intended outcomes for the project included:

Outcome 1: PLHIV Family income increased by 40% in real terms

Outcome 2: Enhanced knowledge/skills of PLHIV in administrative, financial and operational management

Community Empowerment to reduce Gender-based Violence and Maternal Health Complication-UNFPA

The implementation of the project focused on the following:

Planning meetings: Stakeholders planning meetings were held in districts of implementation, bringing together regional government relevant Ministries, Departments and agencies, local councils, CSOs and traditional and religious leaders. The planning meetings informed all the stakeholders about the purpose of the community empowerment program, discussed and agreed on implementation modalities.

Training: Trainings on the Prevention and community response to GBV and promoting maternal health was conducted for about 500 TBAs in Bo, Bombali, Koinadugu districts and Western Rural area. These TBAs were organized in advocacy groups for GBV prevention and referral of pregnant women to health facilities.

Support with outreach items: The chiefdom community advocacy groups were supported with outreach and advocacy materials such as: MP3 VCD/CD players, megaphones, touch lights, batteries and advocacy CDs.

Support to community advocacy programs: financial support was provided through the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs and CSOs and community door to door sensitization was carried out by the trained and established advocacy groups.

Sensitization forum for Traditional and Religious Leaders: Over 100 Traditional and religious leaders were sensitized on GBV and the implications for maternal health. These leaders are expected to educate their constituencies on GBV and maternal mortality related issues.

Monitoring: The Gender Regional Officers in collaboration with the District Medical Health Teams led the monitoring of the implementation by the advocacy groups in the communities. The UNFPA office received reports from the Regional Gender Officers and was also in contact with the community groups and CSOs on the progress of the pilot program.

Solar Powered Business Information and Communication Platforms-UNIDO

This project aimed to contribute to the efforts of providing wide economic and social opportunities by means of a Solar-powered Business Information and Communication (BIC) platform that would reduce the isolation felt by the rural population and provide greater access to information and communication as well as other productive uses of the renewable energy. The solar power installations were used to power computers and all-in-one printer/copier/scanners, freezers for food preservation, charging solar lanterns for domestic use at homes, and charging of mobile phones.

The selected locations for the intervention were the respective UNIDO-supported Growth Centre facilities in Binkolo, Bo, Pujehun, Kpandebu, Koindu and Newton.

Outputs of the project relate to the UN Joint vision deliverables of:

* 18.5.1 Communication hubs established and integrated into growth/community production centers in each rural district
* 18.5.2 Each hub provided access to the internet (and to satellite TV), market and other technical information; pay phone and/or money transfer services; non-formal education and entertainment services
* 18.5.3 Each hub connected to a national Youth Platform; a web-based tool to enhance networking, participation, information/knowledge sharing, and to generate ideas and recommendations amongst youth and between community members and other stakeholders or leaders.
* 18.5.4 Renewable energy supply systems (e.g. solar) installed for each communication hub as autonomous green energy units/business models.

These above outputs aimed to contribute to the UN joint vision outcome of Integrating Rural Areas into the National Economy which have access to community growth centers that can provide basic communication services including internet where possible. It also involved giving farmers (youth & women) basic information about markets, prices, weather conditions, etc. It also gave access to TV programs, including educational programs (HIV/AIDS & non-gender based violence, health talks, knowledge in agricultural practices, related technologies, management practices & entrepreneurship and other cross-cutting themes) and entertainment channels.

Supporting Rural Women in Capacity Building through leadership skills training and community development-UN Women

UN Women’s (UNIFEM’s) contribution to the programme was particularly aimed at increasing and improving rural women’s community involvement and access to local government fora. Women who occupy an inferior status in these rural communities are more marginalized and experience a higher degree of discrimination, exclusion and abuse than women in urban areas. Being largely governed under customary laws (which are mostly unwritten) whose fundamental principle is men’s superiority over women; women are discriminated against in the economic, social as well as the political spheres. They are excluded from decision making processes and discriminated against in land ownership and thus inhibiting their economic capacities.

The main outcomes/objectives of the project were:

* Increased rural women’s community involvement and access to local government fora
* Improved dialogue and cooperation of rural women and councilors on development programs at all levels.

Main outputs included:

* Financial and technical support to rural women’s organizations provided;
* Support to 100 rural women leaders from across the country to attend leadership skills training provided;
* 14 district Women’s Town hall meetings on community development programs and women’s involvement organized and supported

**Describe any delays in implementation,challenges,lessons learned and best practices**:

Rural Community Empowerment-UNDP

Due to limited local knowledge and availability of renewable solar power energy systems, including the specifications of the components of the SPVCs and accessories, the contracts for the procurement of forty (40) bulk SPVC modules and the training of sixty (60) teaching staff and installation processes were tendered in September 2010 to the Global Procurement Unit, UNDP Procurement Support Office (PSO) in Copenhagen. The procurement process has nonetheless been very slow. UNDP Sierra Leone and Sierra Leone in general lacks technical expertise in renewable energy alternatives, such as solar power. This situation resulted in the back and forth request for clarifications on the specifications submitted by UNDP Sierra Leone to UNDP’s PSO in Copenhagen and intended bidders. As a result of the lack of technical expertise in solar power in Sierra Leone, the 2011 work plan included the recruitment of an expert in solar energy to monitor the installation and use of the solar power equipment in the thirty (30) Senior Secondary Schools.

Rural Empowerment-FAO

All funding allocated to support this project was from the Delivering as One fund through the SL-MDTF totaling 554,000 USD. A major challenge was that there was delays in the transfer of funds from headquarters. Administration and logistics had to occur over a three week period. Given the short turn around, administrative support should have been reinforced with key administrative staff assigned for the allotted time period

The objective of the forums was to encourage rural development and integration through the empowerment of Sierra Leones rural local leaders and local champions. Empowerment of these rural local leaders and champions during the leadership forums would occur through exposure to global issues which can then be applied to their ongoing community based actions. There was an acknowledgement by the national government and UN agencies during project inception that there is limited access to global information, knowledge about global issues and more importantly success stories of local community-led action programmes elsewhere. Rural local leaders and champions were exposed to global best practices which they were then encouraged to integrate into their own innovative process within their respective communities. There was nomination of rural local leaders and local champions from four groups: (i) local traditional leaders such as progressive paramount chiefs and district councilors; (ii) women leaders connected to UNIFEM and UNFPA projects; (iii/iv) Youth: young men and women through the Agricultural Business Centers (SCP project). The structure of the forums also took into consideration the UN Joint Vision by having presentations from the various UN agencies in the program in the morning session and facilitation in the afternoon. UNDP, UNAIDS, UNHCR UNFPA, UN Women and UNIDO made presentations about global success stories on a variety of global issues that affect rural communities. It was ensured that the UN agencies would provide participants with tangible information about the issues which they could go back and integrate into their community led actions. For example UNIDO spoke on solar energy and informed the participants of opportunities on how they too could access this. In addition, UNIDO informed the young men and women about a new Solar Energy College Institute which intends to train installation and operations specialists to be based in rural areas.

Empowering PLHIV-UNAIDS

Due to administrative procedures required by UNAIDS HQ to facilitate transfer of funds from the MDTF Office through UNAIDS HQ to the UNAIDS Country Office (UCO), the funds transfer took a prolonged period of time. The UCO first informed UNAIDS HQ of the funds transfer on July 2nd 2010 but following a number of protracted procedures the funds did not actually arrive in country until the September 16th 2010 which presented some challenges for full implementation within the agreed time period.

The project was managed under the overall coordinating responsibility of the UNAIDS Country Office (UCO) in close collaboration with the National AIDS Secretariat. Both the development and implementation of the project was conducted in partnership with the Executive of the Network of HIV Positives in Sierra Leone (NETHIPS).

A national project coordinator was recruited by NETHIPS to support project implementation in particular ongoing supervision support for sub-recipients. As per the TOR the National Coordinator was responsible to:

* Undertake Consultative Meetings with each of the individual PLHIV Support groups (identified as sub-recipients) and develop a baseline assessment to guide the implementation the livelihoods programmes
* Assist with necessary procurement for programme equipment, supplies and services
* Provide administrative/logistical support for meetings, field trips, workshops, etc
* Provide ongoing support in identifying capacity challenges and corresponding capacity building activities for programme sub-recipients (administrative and financial)
* Contribute to the production of mid-term and final programme reports to UNAIDS Country Office

The national coordinator experienced in both livelihood activities and working with PLHIV proved to be very effective in performing the responsibilities as per the TOR, in particular by undertaking ongoing field visits with findings and recommendations he reported back to NETHIPS and UNAIDS.

In keeping with enhancing the capacity and greater involvement of NETHIPS (The Network of HIV Positives in Sierra Leone), the project was designed that NETHIPS would act as the principal recipient of the funds.

Project Guidance/Partnership: As part of UNAIDS mandate to strengthen multi-sectoral partnership and utilize comparative advantage, a link was merged between The Business Coalition on AIDS in Sierra Leone (BCAASL) and NETHIPS with the aim of providing technical assistance and expert guidance to NETHIPS on the overall project implementation and ongoing monitoring and evaluation, more specifically BCAASL support focused on:

* Technical guidance for the proposal (Market study i.e. what will or won’t work, production planning, materials/equipment required, capital cost/financial planning, operating costs etc)
* Technical guidance to the principal recipient (NETHIPS) on monitoring and supervision of small grants aimed at livelihood activities for vulnerable populations such as People living with HIV
* Technical guidance identifying appropriate activities considering the market dynamics and local resources (Agricultural production, Processing, Handicraft, Commercial activities)

To initiate the process BCAASL advised NETHIPS to conduct an assessment of each of the identified eight PLHIV support groups, collecting the relevant data to serve as a baseline for designing their respective livelihood activities work-plans, this activity was completed by NETHIPS with support from the project coordinator.

Gender-Based Violence-UNFPA

The total amount of money received from MDTF for the Gender-Based Violence activities was $158,400. The transfer was done through UNFPA Resource Mobilization Branch (RMB) in New York. RMB created a fund code after going through some administrative procedures that usually create some delays in establishing the project account and depositing the fund in the account for easy access by UNFPA Sierra Leone.

Planning meetings: Stakeholders planning meetings were held in districts of implementation, bringing together regional government relevant Ministries, Departments and agencies, local councils, CSOs and traditional and religious leaders. The planning meetings informed all the stakeholders about the purpose of the community empowerment program, discussed and agreed on implementation modalities lessons nad best practices were shared.

Training: Trainings on the Prevention and community response to GBV and promoting maternal health was conducted for about 500 TBAs in the districts of Bo, Bombali and Koinadugu respectively, and the Western Rural Area.

Support with outreach items: The chiefdom community advocacy groups were supported with outreach and advocacy materials such as: MP3 VCD/CD players, megaphones, torch lights, batteries and advocacy compact discs.

Support to community advocacy programs: financial support was provided through the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs and CSOs. Community door-to-door sensitization was carried out by the trained and established advocacy groups.

Sensitization forum for Traditional and Religious Leaders: Over 100 Traditional and religious leaders were sensitized on GBV and the implications for maternal health.

Solar Powered Business Platforms-UNIDO

The total amount of money received from MDTF was 158,000 USD. As considerable time was needed to rewrite the project document into UNIDO’s format as well as to pass it through the required three-stage approval process, actual implementation of the project was initiated three months later in October 2010.

The project was implemented by both national and international staff, under the supervision of the HQ staff and the direct supervision of the UNIDO Head of Operations in Sierra Leone. Following the field assessment, the design for solar installations was developed based on a structural plan for each centre.

Procurement was done according to UNIDO’s standard procedures for decentralized procurement, based on the technical specifications for appliances and solar equipment provided by the experts. All items were supplied locally so as to facilitate post-installation care and maintenance.

Regular consultations were held with Government counterparts and local community stakeholders to foster support and collaboration for successful implementation of the project.

Supporting Rural Women-UN Women

The implementation of some of the activities in this project has experienced serious challenges in the area of bureaucracy in the transfer of funds from the headquarters through the regional office and country office. There have also been recorded incidences of bottle necks with partners agreeing with contents of agency agreement for the implementation of projects. For example there was delay with parliament signing the agreement on behalf of the Female Parliamentary Caucus, because they could not agree with the clauses on financial management and auditing in the UN Women Letter of Agreement. This delays implementation of the project.

The programme was implemented in rural communities nation-wide. UN Women partnered with the Female Parliamentary Caucus and the Council of Women Councilors (CWC). The former will, through UN Women support organize women’s town hall meetings on community development programmes countrywide. The CWC had organised women’s leadership training for CWC members and other women leaders in two clusters of seven districts each in Makeni and Bo. The leadership skills training of about 100 rural women’s leaders were organized by Council of Women Councilors with financial and technical support from UN Women. This involved the hiring of qualified training consultants who carried out the training of target beneficiaries.

UN Women UN Women also collaborated with FAO who supported ward committee members for the leadership training.

In addition, UN Women partnered with NGOs to carry out Agricultural/life skills training for rural young women to improve their living standard and for sustainable income generating activities. Support was directed towards procurement of agricultural materials for training of young rural women in the processing and marketing of local food produce.

Furthermore, UN Women provided technical support to the Council of Women Councilors in the organization of the leadership training and witnessed both trainings in the North and South regions. The other activities supported under this project (14 district Women’s Town hall meetings on community development programs and women’s involvement and livelihood support skills for young rural women) are ongoing.

**Qualitative assessment :**

Rural Community Empowerment-UNDP

An effective cross cutting issues on monitoring/assessment for the successful implementation of the project was carried out by a joint effort of UNDP, MEST and Multichoice International (SL) Limited, and each entity contributing to its own project components. Effective and efficient coordination mechanisms including stakeholders at all levels, such as bi-weekly monitoring of the installation and later, the full operation of the system. UNDP, in collaboration with the MEST and Ministry of Works, Housing and Infrastructure (MHWI), identified, informed and inspected thirty (30) Senior Secondary Schools across all the districts in Sierra Leone, including the Western Rural and Urban areas

Rural Empowerment-FAO

Monthly field supervision visits were carried out by the project coordinator, other representatives from FAO programme implementation unit and joint assessment with other sister agencies, although sometimes more frequent particularly to those groups experiencing some challenges with implementation. Several supervision visits were conducted by staff of FAO representation. It is important to note that while conducting the supervision visits both the coordinator of the project and partners would also spend time advocating and engaging at district level with traditional authorities to facilitate smooth progress of implementation.

Empowering PLHIV-UNAIDS

Throughout the project the coordinator (as per the TOR) shared monthly reports on the status of the livelihood activities to UNAIDS and the NETHIPS Executive. A Final project report has been completed by the coordinator and NETHIPS and validated by UNAIDS and shared with key partners including the Joint UN Team on AIDS, National AIDS Secretariat and the Expanded Technical Working Group on AIDS.

Monthly field supervision visits were carried out by the project coordinator although sometimes more frequent particularly to those groups experiencing some challenges with implementation. Two supervision visits were conducted by UCO staff accompanied by NETHIPS to each of the PLHIV Support Groups and partners. It is important to note that while conducting the supervision visits both the coordinator NETHIPS and UNAIDS would also spend time advocating and engaging at district level with traditional authorities to facilitate smooth progress of implementation.

To attempt to measure the impact of the project interventions a basic baseline assessment was conducted prior to implementation for the 8 PLHIV Support Groups. The assessment conducted by NETHIPS with support from the coordinator aimed to capture each individual beneficiary’s income and skills level prior to implementation of the project.

Gender-Based Violence-UNFPA

The Gender Regional Officers in collaboration with the District Medical Health Teams were leading the monitoring/assessment of the implementation by the advocacy groups in the communities. The UNFPA office received reports from the Regional Gender Officers, and also in contact with the community groups and CSOs on the progress of the pilot program.

Solar Powered Business Platforms-UNIDO

The Growth Centres have a local management committee (with representatives from Government, civil society, local community) which serves as principal adviser and field monitor. The UNIDO work team conducted periodic field visits before, during and after installation of the solar-powered systems. In addition, each centre has a manager that assists in the day to day operations of the solar equipment and appliances to ensure long-term sustainability.

Supporting Rural Women-UN Women

Cross cutting issues on promoting Gender Equality and Women’s Rights, and leadership issues among others were greatly captured by the project and discussed by other sister agencies during the implementation process, the project also recognized the fact that women, and especially rural women, have a low status in Sierra Leone’s highly patriarchal society. Women are poorly educated and suffer from high illiteracy rates and as a consequence, women lack access to economic opportunities and suffer from food insecurity.

# Abbreviations and Acronyms

ABCs Agricultural Business Centres

ACP UNDP’s Advisory Committee on Procurement

ARD Association for Rural Development for Sierra Leone

BCAASL Business Coalition Against AIDS in Sierra Leone

CSO Civil Society organisations

CWC Council of Women Councilors

DSA Daily Subsistence Allowance

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GBV Gender-Based Violence

KAP Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP)

LIWITH Living with Hope

MACSA Morturmonyuma HIV & AIDS Care and Support Association

MCSL Methodist Church Sierra Leone

MDTF Multi-Donor Trust Fund

MEST Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

MMR: Maternal Mortality Reduction

MSWGCA Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs

MWHI Ministry of Works, Housing and Infrastructure

NAS National AIDS Secretariat

NETHIPS Network of HIV Positives in Sierra Leone

NGO Non-Governmental Organization

PAGSOH Partnership Action for Grassroots Sensitization on HIV

PISU Project Implementation Support Unit

PLHIV People living with HIV

PRSP Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper

PSO Procurement Support Office

SCP Small Holder Commercialization Program

SL-MDTF Sierra Leone Multi-Donor Trust Fund

SLFPAC Sierra Female Parliamentary Caucus

SPVC Solar Panel Voltaic Cells

TA Technical Assistance

1. The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document; [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org/) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. 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 original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)